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54 Novel cytokines.

57 The invention concerns polypeptides with an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation, derivatives thereof such as mutants and fragments, processes for their preparation, DNAs and hybrid vectors coding for said polypeptides and derivatives and host cells transformed with such hybrid vectors, polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies specific for said polypeptides or their derivatives and antibody derivatives as well as diagnostic and therapeutic methods for inflammatory conditions and Hodgkin lymphomas.

NOVEL CYTOKINES

The invention concerns polypeptides with an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation, derivatives thereof such as mutants and fragments, processes for their preparation, DNAs and hybrid vectors coding for said polypeptides and derivatives and host cells transformed with such hybrid vectors, polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies specific for said polypeptides or their derivatives and antibody derivatives as well as diagnostic and therapeutic methods for inflammatory conditions and Hodgkin lymphomas.

Background of the invention

Cytokines are biologically active, soluble polypeptide mediators which control the differentiation, activation and proliferation of various cell types of the immune system, for example the induction or modulation of macrophage functions. Examples of cytokines are the well characterized interferons, interleukins and colony stimulating factor, as well as macrophage migration inhibition factor (MIF) and macrophage activation factor (MAF) that display macrophage inhibition or activation properties, respectively.

Numerous activities have been attributed to cytokines although few of these can be ascribed to single molecules. For example, human MIF, which is thought to consist of a group of polypeptides, is defined *in vitro* in an assay which measures the inhibition of random migration of macrophages. *In vivo*, human MIF plays an important role in the early events of cellular immune reactions ("delayed type hypersensitivity") by its mediation of macrophage functions. Generally, the first exposure of a patient to an antigen produces no noticeable change, but the immune status of the recipient is clearly altered. Upon second contact with the antigen, the delayed hypersensitivity reaction is manifested by the infiltration of cells, beginning with a perivascular accumulation of lymphocytes and monocytes at the site where the antigen is located. Some of these cells are specifically sensitized as a result of the first contact with the antigen. These cells react with the antigen, which causes release of lymphokines and the attraction and retention of large numbers of unsensitized cells. In particular, it is assumed that the production of MIF results in the attraction of monocytes which pass through the endothelium of the blood vessel wall and enter the surrounding tissue. Concomitantly with this infiltration, the monocytes differentiate into tissue macrophages. The macroscopic phenomena seen in delayed type hypersensitivity are swelling at the site of contact with the antigen caused by cellular infiltration and reddening caused by dilatation of the underlying blood vessels. Under normal conditions, the inflammatory reaction will cease after about two to three days when possible tissue damage has been repaired. However, for unknown reasons, inflammations can become chronic, causing extensive tissue damage, e.g. rheumatoid arthritis. A possible explanation for the generation of chronic inflammation could be that, at the onset, the differentiation of the infiltrate macrophages has been deregulated.

Object of the invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide polypeptides, in particular human polypeptides, which are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation and derivatives thereof in high purity and sufficient quantity, and processes for their preparation. The problem of industrial polypeptide synthesis can be solved by the methods of recombinant DNA technology. It is therefore a further object of the invention to provide DNAs and hybrid vectors coding for the desired polypeptides and derivatives, and hosts transformed with such vectors. Other objects are methods of production of said DNAs, vectors and transformed host cells.

The polypeptides of the invention are useful for gaining a better understanding of the role of the mononuclear phagocyte system in clinically important areas such as resistance to infection, control of metastases, inflammatory processes and tissue repair. Furthermore, they are useful for the treatment of chronic inflammatory conditions. Accordingly, another object of the invention are pharmaceutical compositions comprising the polypeptides or derivatives thereof, and methods of their preparation. In addition, the polypeptides and derivatives according to the invention are useful for the study, identification and production of antagonists which can be used as anti-inflammatory drugs.

Another object of the invention is to provide antibodies specific for the polypeptides or the derivatives of the invention. Such antibodies can be used for the diagnosis of inflammatory conditions and to monitor the treatment of such conditions. Further these antibodies are useful for the diagnosis and treatment of Hodgkin

lymphomas.

Description of the invention

The invention concerns polypeptides, in particular human polypeptides, with an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation, and derivatives thereof.

Mediators of inflammation are chemical signal molecules which induce inflammatory reactions.

Precursors of polypeptide mediators are pre-stages of mediators, i.e. polypeptides which after their production are processed or trimmed, e.g. by cutting certain terminal amino acid sequences and/or by glycosylation, and are thereby converted into the active mediators, or retain their mediator activity if the precursor itself is an active mediator.

The polypeptides and derivatives of the invention play an important role in the immunological processes involved in inflammatory conditions. The inflammation mediator activity of the claimed polypeptides can for example be shown by their ability to induce localized inflammation when administered subcutaneously, for example in a normal guinea pig.

In general, the apparent molecular weight of a polypeptide of unknown structure can be determined according to conventional methods, e.g. by sedimentation analyses and determination of the diffusion coefficient or gel electrophoretic methods, in particular polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in the presence of sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS-PAGE).

In particular, the invention concerns a polypeptide which is a mediator or precursor for a mediator of inflammation designated MAP-160 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or derivatives thereof.

The calculated molecular weight of MAP-160 is 160,989.

Derivatives of the invention are mutants of the polypeptides according to the invention, in particular mutants of the polypeptides of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein one or more single amino acids, in particular not more than 10% of the amino acids, are deleted or replaced by different amino acids, or additional amino acids are inserted.

Furthermore, derivatives of the invention are fragments of a polypeptide of the invention or of a mutant thereof, in particular fragments of a polypeptide of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1 or of a mutant thereof, comprising at least 15 consecutive amino acids.

Preferred is a fragment which comprises amino acids 878 to 1427 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the N-terminus is hydrogen, acyl, the amino acid sequence Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly or the amino acid sequence Met-Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly. The fragment comprising the N-terminal amino acid sequence Met-Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly is designated rMRP-70.

The predicted molecular weight of the fragment designated rMRP-70 is 64,714 but on sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), this peptide migrates as a peptide of apparent molecular weight 70 kD when compared with standard marker proteins.

In addition, derivatives of the invention are compounds derived from a polypeptide, mutant or fragment according to the invention, in particular from MRP-160, a mutant or a fragment thereof, wherein functional groups, e.g. amino, hydroxy, mercapto or carboxy groups, are derivatized, e.g. glycosylated, acylated, amidated or esterified. In glycosylated derivatives a carbohydrate residue or an oligosaccharide is linked to asparagine, serine and/or threonine. Acylated derivatives are substituted by the acyl group of a naturally occurring organic or inorganic acid, e.g. formic acid, acetic acid, phosphoric acid or sulfuric acid, at amino groups, especially the N-terminal amino group, or at hydroxy groups, especially of tyrosine or serine. Esters are those of naturally occurring alcohols, e.g. of methanol or ethanol. Preferred are derivatives of the invention which are glycosylated.

Further derivatives of the invention are salts, especially pharmaceutically acceptable salts, for example metal salts, such as alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, e.g. sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium or zinc salts, or ammonium salts formed with ammonia or a suitable organic amine, such as a lower alkylamine, e.g. triethylamine, hydroxy-lower alkylamine, e.g. 2-hydroxyethylamine, and the like.

Preferred are derivatives of polypeptides of the invention with an apparent molecular weight of 190 kD or with an apparent molecular weight of 140 kD which are produced by transfected cells or natural cells like endothelial cells. They can be observed by standard techniques such as Western blots.

The invention also concerns processes for the preparation of polypeptides which are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation, i.e. natural, recombinant or synthetic polypeptides, and derivatives

according to the invention.

In one embodiment of the invention, such compounds are prepared by a process wherein a solution containing the polypeptides or derivatives according to the invention, for example an optionally pre-purified cell extract, cell supernatant or culture filtrate of stimulated normal human leukocytes or of genetically engineered microorganisms or continuous mammalian cell lines, is purified by chromatographic methods and, when required, the compounds are isolated and converted into derivatives thereof.

Cell extracts, cell supernatants and culture filtrates of stimulated normal human leukocytes containing natural polypeptides of the invention are prepared as for example described for MIF in the European Patent Application 0 162 812. In particular, normal human mononuclear cells are stimulated to produce lymphokines by suitable adjuncts, for example concanavalin A or phytohaemagglutinin, and are cultured according to customary methods. Optionally, cell extracts, cell supernatants or culture filtrates are then pre-purified by immunoaffinity chromatography.

Chromatographic methods contemplated for the preparation of the desired compounds are ion exchange chromatography, reversed phase high performance liquid chromatography, gel filtration, size exclusion chromatography, (immuno)affinity chromatography, chromatography on hydroxylapatite, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, and the like.

A suitable carrier material for ion exchange chromatography may be of organic or inorganic origin, e.g. cross-linked agarose, dextran, polyacrylamide, styrene/divinylbenzene copolymer, cellulose, or the like. This carrier material bears basic functional groups, e.g. tertiary amino functions, quarternary ammonium groups or acid functional groups, e.g. carboxylic or sulfonic acid residues. Examples for preferred ion exchangers are those bearing diethylaminoethyl (DEAE) or diethyl-2-hydroxypropylammonioethyl functional groups and those bearing sulfopropyl (SP) or carboxymethyl (CM) functional groups, either attached to carriers suitable for normal liquid chromatography, fast protein liquid chromatography (FPLC) or high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). The separations and purifications with ion exchange chromatography are performed following established procedures, e.g. in aqueous buffer solutions of pH 5 to pH 9 containing increasing amounts of salt, for example sodium chloride.

Carrier material suitable for gel filtration or size exclusion chromatography includes cross-linked dextran, agarose, suitably modified polyacrylamide or silica, and the like. Optionally these carriers are modified with substituents bearing hydroxy functions, e.g. with 1-hydroxy- or 1,2-dihydroxy-lower alkyl groups. Such gel filtration or size exclusion chromatography may be performed on a column suitable for normal liquid chromatography, FPLC or HPLC as above using aqueous buffer solutions at a pH around neutrality containing variable amounts of salts, e.g. sodium chloride.

Reversed phase chromatography is performed on silica-based carrier material bearing hydrophobic groups, e.g. alkyl groups of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, preferably 4, 8, 12 or 18 carbon atoms or mixtures of alkyl groups of 1 and 8 or 12 and 18 carbon atoms, respectively, or phenyl groups. Related to this method is the hydrophobic interaction chromatography, wherein agarose or a related material coated with alkyl groups of up to 12 carbon atoms and/or phenyl groups is used. These chromatographic techniques are applied using FPLC or HPLC. Solvents for processing of the polypeptides of the invention on silica-based reversed phase material are aqueous acids, e.g. aqueous trifluoroacetic acid, containing increasing amounts of a polar, water-miscible organic solvent, e.g. acetonitrile, lower alcohols, e.g. methanol, ethanol or propanol, tetrahydrofuran, and the like, preferably acetonitrile.

Affinity chromatography is also contemplated for the purification of the polypeptides of the invention, using a suitable carrier material, e.g. cross-linked agarose, dextran or polyacrylamide bearing molecules with high affinity for a polypeptide or a derivative of the invention, mutants, fragments or derivatives thereof, for example bearing antibodies, in particular polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) such as MAbs specific for human MIF.

The preferred chromatographic methods are immunoaffinity chromatography, ion exchange chromatography with carriers bearing sulfopropyl groups and reversed phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

The compounds of the invention are isolated by the usual techniques, for example filtration or ultrafiltration, dialysis, dissolution and reprecipitation in suitable salt or buffer solutions and solvent mixtures, solvent evaporation, lyophilization, and the like.

Mutants of the invention are formed by spontaneous or chemically induced mutations at the DNA level or by replacement of amino acids by chemical synthesis.

Fragments of the invention are formed by spontaneous or chemically induced mutations at the DNA level, whereby a triplet coding for an amino acid is changed to a stop codon, or at the peptide level by cleaving bonds chemically or enzymatically. Suitable enzymes for the preparation of fragments of the invention are for example proteases. For instance, papain, trypsin, α -chymotrypsin, thermolysin, pepsin,

subtilisin, endoproteinase Lys-C from Lysobacter enzymogenes, V8 protease from Staphylococcus aureus or related proteases may be added to a solution of a polypeptide of the invention, and the resulting mixture of fragments may be separated by chromatographic methods, e.g. by gel filtration and/or reversed phase HPLC.

5 Extracts, cell supernatants and culture filtrates of genetically engineered microorganisms or continuous mammalian cell lines containing recombinant polypeptides of the invention or derivatives thereof according to the invention are obtained by recombinant DNA techniques and pre-purified as discussed above. In particular, polypeptides and derivatives thereof according to the invention can be prepared by culturing transformed host cells expressing polypeptides of the invention or derivatives thereof under conditions
10 which allow expression of heterologous polypeptides, and when required, isolating the desired compounds and/or converting them into derivatives thereof. The steps involved in the preparation of the polypeptides and derivatives of the invention by recombinant DNA techniques will be discussed in more detail hereinbelow.

In another embodiment of the invention, the polypeptides and derivatives thereof according to the
15 invention, particularly fragments, are synthesized by chemical methods, e.g. by condensation reactions as described for example by M. Bodanszky, "Principles of Peptide Synthesis" (Springer 1984). Fragments are synthesized e.g. by a solid-phase method, wherein an N-protected amino acid is coupled to a suitable resin, the protecting group is removed, a second N-protected amino acid is condensed with the amino group of the first amino acid, the cycle of deprotection/condensation with further N-protected amino acids is repeated
20 until the peptide residue of the desired compound is complete, and finally this peptide residue is cleaved from the resin and deprotected. Similarly short N-protected oligopeptides may be used in place of single N-protected amino acids. Suitable resins, protecting groups, condensation reagents and reaction conditions are well known in the art.

The invention relates also to DNAs coding for a polypeptide of the invention or for derivatives thereof, to
25 mutants of such DNAs, e.g. DNAs wherein one or more, especially one, two, three or four, nucleotides are mutated, and to fragments of such DNAs comprising at least 15 nucleotides.

By definition, such DNAs comprise coding single-stranded DNAs, double-stranded DNAs consisting of said coding DNAs and of complementary DNAs thereto, or these complementary (single-stranded) DNAs themselves.

30 In particular, the invention concerns a DNA coding for MRP-160 of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, and mutants and fragments of such a DNA.

In particular, the invention concerns a DNA fragment which comprises nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.

The invention also concerns DNAs which hybridize with a DNA, mutant or fragment thereof according to
35 the invention.

Furthermore, the invention concerns DNAs, mutants or fragments thereof according to the invention which are of genomic origin.

The DNAs of the invention can be prepared for example by culturing a transformed host and, when required, isolating the desired DNA therefrom, or by chemical synthesis through nucleotide condensation.

40 In particular, such DNAs can be prepared by

- a) isolating mRNA from suitable cells, for example human mononuclear leukocytes or human embryonic epithelial lung cells, selecting the desired mRNA, e.g. by hybridization with a DNA probe or by expression in a suitable expression system and screening for expression of the desired polypeptide, preparing single-stranded cDNA complementary to that mRNA, then double-stranded cDNA therefrom, or
- 45 b) isolating cDNA from a cDNA library and selecting the desired cDNA, e.g. using a DNA probe or using a suitable expression system and screening for expression of the desired polypeptide, or
- c) isolating genomic DNA from suitable human tissue, e.g. placenta or fetal liver cells, and selecting the desired DNA, e.g. using a DNA probe or using a suitable expression system and screening for expression of the desired polypeptide, and
- 50 d) incorporating the double-stranded DNA of step a), b) or c) into an appropriate expression vector,
- e) transforming appropriate host cells with the obtained hybrid vector,
- f) selecting transformed host cells which contain the desired DNA from untransformed host cells, and, when required,
- g) isolating the desired DNA and/or converting the DNA into a mutant or fragment thereof.

55 Polyadenylated messenger RNA (step a) is isolated from the suitable cells, e.g. human mononuclear leukocytes or human embryonic epithelial lung cells, by known methods. For example, the leukocytes may be derived from fresh human blood, e.g. from buffy coats consisting of white blood cells, or from leukocytes of an established continuous cell line which can be expanded in culture. Isolation methods involve, for

example, homogenizing stimulated leukocytes in the presence of a detergent and a ribonuclease inhibitor, e.g. heparin, guanidinium isothiocyanate or mercaptoethanol, extracting the mRNA with suitable chloroform-phenol mixtures, optionally in the presence of salt and buffer solutions, detergents and/or cation chelating agents, and precipitating mRNA from the remaining aqueous, salt-containing phase with ethanol, isopropanol or the like. The isolated mRNA may be further purified by centrifuging in a cesium chloride gradient followed by ethanol precipitation and/or by chromatographic methods, e.g. affinity chromatography, for example chromatography on oligo(dT) cellulose or on oligo(U) sepharose. Preferably, such purified total mRNA is fractionated according to size by gradient centrifugation, e.g. in a linear sucrose gradient, or chromatography on suitable size fractionation columns, e.g. on agarose gels.

The desired mRNA is selected by screening the mRNA directly with a DNA probe, or by translation in suitable cells or cell-free systems and screening the obtained polypeptides.

The selection of the desired mRNA is preferably achieved using a DNA hybridization probe, thereby avoiding the additional step of translation. Suitable DNA probes are DNAs of known nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 17 nucleotides, for example synthetic DNAs, cDNAs derived from mRNA coding for the desired polypeptides in an animal species whose DNA exhibits sequence homologies with human DNA, or genomic DNA fragments comprising e.g. adjacent DNA sequences which are isolated from a natural source or from a genetically engineered microorganism.

Synthetic DNA probes are synthesized according to known methods as detailed hereinbelow, preferably by stepwise condensation using the solid phase phosphotriester, phosphite triester or phosphoramidite method, e.g. the condensation of dinucleotide coupling units by the phosphotriester method. These methods are adapted to the synthesis of mixtures of the desired oligonucleotides by using mixtures of two, three or four nucleotides dA, dC, dG and/or dT in protected form or the corresponding dinucleotide coupling units in the appropriate condensation step as described by Y. Ike et al. (Nucleic Acids Research 11, 477, 1983).

For hybridization, the DNA probes are labelled, e.g. radioactively labelled by the well known kinase reaction. The hybridization of the size-fractionated mRNA with the DNA probes containing a label is performed according to known procedures, i.e. in buffer and salt solutions containing adjuncts, e.g. calcium chelators, viscosity regulating compounds, proteins, irrelevant DNA and the like, at temperatures favoring selective hybridization, e.g. between 0°C and 80°C, for example between 25°C and 50°C or around 65°C, preferably at around 20° lower than the hybrid double-stranded DNA melting temperature.

Fractionated mRNA may be translated in cells, e.g. frog oocytes, or in cell-free systems, e.g. in reticulocyte lysates or wheat germ extracts. The obtained polypeptides are screened for mediator activity or for reaction with antibodies raised against the native mediator, e.g. in an immunoassay, for example radioimmunoassay, enzyme immunoassay or immunoassay with fluorescent markers. Such immunoassays and the preparation of polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies are well known in the art and are applied accordingly.

The preparation of a single-stranded complementary DNA (cDNA) from the selected mRNA template is well known in the art, as is the preparation of a double-stranded DNA from a single-stranded DNA. The mRNA template is incubated with a mixture of deoxynucleoside triphosphates, optionally radioactively labelled deoxynucleoside triphosphates (in order to be able to screen the result of the reaction), a primer sequence such as an oligo-dT residue hybridizing with the poly(A) tail of the mRNA and a suitable enzyme such as a reverse transcriptase e.g. from avian myeloblastosis virus (AMV). After degradation of the template mRNA e.g. by alkaline hydrolysis, the cDNA is incubated with a mixture of deoxynucleoside triphosphates and a suitable enzyme to give a double-stranded DNA. Suitable enzymes are for instance a reverse transcriptase, the Klenow fragment of *E. coli* DNA polymerase I or T4 DNA polymerase. Usually, a hairpin loop structure formed spontaneously by the single-stranded cDNA acts as a primer for the synthesis of the second strand. This hairpin structure is removed by digestion with S1 nuclease. Alternatively, the 3'-end of the single-stranded DNA is first extended by homopolymeric deoxynucleotide tails prior to the hydrolysis of the mRNA template and the subsequent synthesis of the second cDNA strand.

In the alternative, double-stranded cDNA is isolated from a cDNA library and screened for the desired cDNA (step b). The cDNA library is constructed by isolating mRNA from suitable cells, e.g. human mononuclear leukocytes or human embryonic epithelial lung cells, and preparing single-stranded and double-stranded cDNA therefrom as described above. This cDNA is digested with suitable restriction endonucleases and incorporated into λ phage, e.g. λ charon 4A or λ gt11 following established procedures. The cDNA library replicated on nitrocellulose membranes is screened by using a DNA probe as described hereinbefore, or expressed in a suitable expression system and the obtained polypeptides screened for reaction with an antibody specific for the desired compounds, e.g. an antibody specific for human MIF.

As a further alternative, genomic DNA may be isolated and screened for the desired DNA (step c).

Genomic DNA is isolated from suitable human tissue, preferably from human placenta or human fetal liver cells, according to methods known in the art. A genomic DNA library is prepared therefrom by digestion with suitable restriction endonucleases, e.g. AluI and HaeIII, and incorporation into λ phage, e.g. λ charon 4A or λ gt11, following established procedures. The genomic DNA library replicated on nitrocellulose membranes is screened with a DNA probe as described hereinbefore, or expressed in a suitable expression system and the obtained polypeptides screened as described hereinbefore.

A variety of methods are known in the art for the incorporation of double-stranded cDNA or genomic DNA into an appropriate vector (step d). For example, complementary homopolymer tracts may be added to the double-stranded DNA and the vector DNA by incubation in the presence of the corresponding deoxynucleoside triphosphates and an enzyme such as terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase. The vector and double-stranded DNA are then joined by base pairing between the complementary homopolymeric tails and finally ligated by specific joining enzymes such as ligases. Other possibilities are the addition of synthetic linkers to the termini of the double-stranded DNA, or the incorporation of the double-stranded DNA into the vector by blunt- or staggered-end ligation. Appropriate vectors will be discussed in detail hereinbelow.

The transformation of appropriate host cells with the obtained hybrid vector (step e) and the selection of transformed host cells (step f) are well known in the art and are described in detail further below. Hybrid vectors and host cells may be particularly suitable for the production of DNA, or else for the production of the desired polypeptides.

The isolation of the desired DNA, mutants and fragments thereof according to the invention is achieved by methods known in the art, e.g. extraction with phenol and/or chloroform. Optionally, the DNA can be further manipulated e.g. by treatment with mutagenic agents to obtain mutants, or by digestion with restriction enzymes to obtain fragments, modify one or both termini to facilitate incorporation into the vector, remove intervening sequences and the like.

The nucleotide sequence of a DNA according to the invention can be determined by methods known per se, for example by the Maxam-Gilbert method using end-labelled DNA or by the dideoxy chain termination method of Sanger.

The preparation of a DNA, mutant or derivative thereof according to the invention may also be performed by means of chemical synthesis. Suitable methods for the synthesis of DNA have been presented in summary form by S.A. Narang (Tetrahedron 39, 3, 1983). The known synthesis techniques allow the preparation of polynucleotides up to 40 bases in length, in good yield, high purity and in a relatively short time. Suitably protected nucleotides are linked with one another by the phosphodiester method (K.L. Agarwal et al., Angew. Chemie 84 489, 1972), the more efficient phosphotriester method (C.B. Reese, Tetrahedron 34, 3143, 1972), the phosphite triester method (R.L. Letsinger et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 98 3655, 1976) or phosphoramidite method (S.L. Beaucage and M.H. Carruthers, Tetrahedron 22 1859, 1981). Simplification of the synthesis of the oligonucleotides and polynucleotides is made possible by the solid phase method, in which the nucleotide chains are bound to a suitable polymer. H. Rink et al. (Nucl. Acids Research 12, 6369, 1984) use trinucleotides instead of individual nucleotides and link them by the phosphotriester method in the solid phase synthesis. A polynucleotide with up to 67 bases can thus be prepared in a short time and with good yields. The actual double-stranded DNA is built up enzymatically from chemically prepared overlapping oligonucleotides from both DNA strands, which are held together in the correct arrangement by base-pairing and are then chemically linked by the enzyme DNA ligase. Another possibility comprises incubating overlapping single oligonucleotides from the two DNA strands in the presence of the four required deoxynucleoside triphosphates with a DNA polymerase, for example DNA polymerase I, the Klenow fragment of polymerase I or T4 DNA polymerase, or with AMV (avian myeloblastosis virus) reverse transcriptase. The two oligonucleotides are thereby held together in the correct arrangement by base-pairing and are supplemented with the required nucleotides by the enzyme to give a complete double-stranded DNA (S.A. Narang et al., Anal. Biochem. 121, 356, 1982).

The invention further concerns hybrid vectors comprising a DNA, mutant or fragment thereof as defined hereinbefore coding for a polypeptide or a derivative according to the invention operatively linked to expression control sequences. Particularly preferred are hybrid vectors comprising a DNA of SEQ ID NO: 1, a mutant or derivative thereof, or a DNA fragment consisting of the nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of SEQ ID NO: 1, operatively linked to expression control sequences.

The hybrid vectors of the invention provide for replication and expression of the desired DNA in a suitable host, either as an extrachromosomal element or by integration in the host chromosome. Several possible vector systems are available for integration and expression of the cloned DNA of the invention. In principle, all vectors which replicate and express the desired polypeptide gene according to the invention in the chosen host are suitable. The vector is selected depending on the host cells envisaged for transforma-

tion. In general, such host cells may be prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganisms such as bacteria or yeasts, or cells of higher eukaryotic origin such as vertebrate, in particular mammalian, cells. Suitable host cells will be discussed in detail hereinbelow. In principle, the hybrid vectors of the invention comprise the DNA as defined hereinbefore, an origin of replication or an autonomously replicating sequence, dominant marker sequences, expression control sequences essential for the transcription and translation of the desired DNA and, optionally, signal sequences and additional restriction sites.

An origin of replication or an autonomously replicating sequence (a DNA element which confers autonomously replicating capabilities to extrachromosomal elements) is provided either by construction of the vector to include an exogenous origin such as derived from Simian virus (SV 40) or another viral source, or by the host cell chromosomal mechanisms.

The markers allow for selection of host cells which contain the vector. Selection markers include genes which confer resistance to heavy metals such as copper or to antibiotics such as tetracycline, ampicillin, geneticin (G-418) or hygromycin, or genes which complement a genetic lesion of the host cells such as the absence of thymidin kinase, hypoxanthine phosphoryl transferase, dihydrofolate reductase, or the like.

As expression control sequences, the vector DNA comprises a promoter, i.e. a DNA sequence which directs RNA polymerase to bind to DNA and to initiate RNA synthesis, ribosomal binding sites, i.e. sequences necessary for the initiation of translation, transcription and translation termination signals and sequences necessary for stabilizing the mRNA, and, optionally, enhancers and further regulatory sequences.

A wide variety of promoting sequences may be employed, depending on the nature of the host cell. Promoters that are strong and at the same time well regulated are the most useful. Sequences for the initiation of translation are for example Shine-Dalgarno sequences. Sequences necessary for the initiation and termination of transcription and for stabilizing the mRNA are commonly available from the noncoding 5'-regions and 3'-regions, respectively, of viral or eukaryotic cDNAs, e.g. from the expression host.

Enhancers are transcription-stimulating DNA sequences of viral origin, e.g. derived from Simian virus, polyoma virus, bovine papilloma virus or Moloney sarcoma virus, or of genomic origin.

Signal sequences may be, for example, a presequence or secretory leader directing the secretion of the polypeptide, splice signals, or the like.

The various DNA segments of the vector DNA are operationally linked, i.e. they are contiguous and placed into a functional relationship with each other.

Examples of vectors which are suitable for replication and expression in an *E. coli* strain are bacteriophages, for example derivatives of λ bacteriophages, or plasmids, such as, in particular, the plasmid ColE1 and its derivatives, for example pMB9, pSF2124, pBR317 or pBR322 and plasmids derived from pBR322, such as pUC9, pUCK0, pHRi148 and pLc24. Suitable vectors contain a complete replicon, a marker gene, recognition sequences for restriction endonucleases, so that the foreign DNA and, if appropriate, the expression control sequence can be inserted at these sites, and optionally signal sequences and enhancers.

Microbial promoters are, for example, the strong leftward promoter P_L of bacteriophage λ which is controlled by a temperature sensitive repressor. Also suitable are *E. coli* promoters such as the lac (lactose) promoter regulated by the lac repressor and induced by isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside, the trp (tryptophan) promoter regulated by the trp repressor and induced e.g. by tryptophan starvation, and the tac (hybrid trp-lac promoter) regulated by the lac repressor. Preferred are vectors which contain the P_L promoter of bacteriophage λ .

Vectors which are suitable for replication and expression in yeast contain a yeast replication start and a selective genetic marker for yeast. One group of such vectors includes so-called ars sequences (autonomous replication sequences) as origin of replication. These vectors are retained extrachromosomally within the yeast cell after the transformation and are replicated autonomously. Furthermore, vectors which contain all or part of the 2μ (2 mikron) plasmid DNA from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* can be used. Such vectors will get integrated by recombination into 2μ plasmids already existing within the cell, or replicate autonomously. 2μ sequences are particularly suitable when high transformation frequency and high copy numbers are to be achieved.

Expression control sequences which are suitable for expression in yeast are, for example, those of highly expressed yeast genes. Thus, the promoters for the TRP1 gene, the ADHI or ADHII gene, acid phosphatase (PHO3 or PHO5) gene, isocytichrome gene or a promoter involved with the glycolytic pathway, such as the promoter of the enolase, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate kinase (PGK), hexokinase, pyruvate decarboxylase, phosphofructokinase, glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, 3-phosphoglycerate mutase, pyruvate kinase, triosephosphate isomerase, phosphoglucose isomerase and glucokinase genes, can be used.

Vectors suitable for replication and expression in mammalian cells are preferably provided with promoting sequences derived from DNA of viral origin, e.g. from Simian virus 40 (SV40), Rous sarcoma virus (RSV), adenovirus 2, bovine papilloma virus (BPV), papovavirus BK mutant (BKV), or mouse or human cytomegalovirus (CMV). Alternatively, the vectors may comprise promoters from mammalian expression products, such as actin, collagen, myosin etc., or the native promoter and control sequences which are normally associated with the desired gene sequence. For example, the plasmid may contain the enhancer unit of the mouse or human cytomegalovirus major immediate-early gene, the SV40 enhancer combined with the human α -globin promoter, and/or in addition inducible promoters, such as the ones derived from the heat shock or metallothionein genes. Preferred are vectors which contain the murine cytomegalovirus promoter.

Preferred hybrid vectors of the invention are hybrid vectors derived from the plasmid pUCK0 or from the plasmid pP_Lmu-bio. Also preferred are the vectors designated pMRP160, pMRP160_{ex} and pMRP70_{PL}.

Furthermore, the invention concerns transformed host cells expressing the polypeptides and derivatives of the invention, in particular host cells transformed with a hybrid vector according to the invention. Such host cells are genetically stable and can be activated from deep-frozen cultures by thawing and re-cloning.

Examples of suitable hosts are microorganisms which are devoid of or poor in restriction enzymes or modification enzymes, such as bacteria, in particular strains of *Escherichia coli*, for example *E. coli* X1776, *E. coli* Y1090, *E. coli* HB 101, *E. coli* W3110, *E. coli* HB101/LM1035, *E. coli* JA 221, *E. coli* DH5 α or *E. coli* K12 strain, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Pseudomonas*, *Haemophilus*, *Streptococcus* and others, and yeasts, for example *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* such as *S. cerevisiae* GRF 18. Further suitable host cells are cells of higher organisms, in particular established continuous human or animal cell lines, e.g. human embryonic lung fibroblasts L132, human malignant melanoma Bowes cells, HeLa cells, SV40 virus transformed kidney cells of African green monkey COS-7 or Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells.

The above mentioned strains of *E. coli*, in particular *E. coli* K12, and Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells are preferred as hosts.

The invention also concerns processes for the preparation of transformed host cells wherein a suitable host cell as described hereinbefore is transformed with a hybrid vector according to the invention, and the transformed cells are selected.

Transformation of microorganisms is carried out as described in the literature, for example for *S. cerevisiae* (A. Hinnen et al., Proc.Natl.Acad.Sci.USA, 75, 1929, 1978), for *B. subtilis* (Anagnostopoulos et al., J. Bacteriol. 81, 741, 1961), and for *E. coli* (M. Mandel et al., J. Mol. Biol. 53, 159, 1970).

Accordingly, the transformation procedure of *E. coli* cells includes, for example, Ca²⁺ pretreatment of the cells so as to allow DNA uptake, and incubation with the hybrid vector. The subsequent selection of the transformed cells can be achieved, for example, by transferring the cells to a selective growth medium which allows separation of the transformed cells from the parent cells dependent on the nature of the marker sequence of the vector DNA. Preferably, a growth medium is used which does not allow growth of cells which do not contain the vector. The transformation of yeast comprises, for example, steps of enzymatic removal of the yeast cell wall by means of glucosidases, treatment of the obtained spheroplasts with the vector in the presence of polyethylene glycol and Ca²⁺ ions, and regeneration of the cell wall by embedding the spheroplasts into agar. Preferably, the regeneration agar is prepared in a way to allow regeneration and selection of the transformed cells as described above at the same time.

Transformation of cells of higher eukaryotic origin, such as mammalian cell lines, is preferably achieved by transfection. Transfection is carried out by conventional techniques, such as calcium phosphate precipitation, microinjection, protoplast fusion, electroporation, i.e. introduction of DNA by a short electrical pulse which transiently increases the permeability of the cell membrane, or in the presence of helper compounds such as diethylaminoethyl-dextran, dimethyl sulfoxide, glycerol or polyethylene glycol, and the like. After the transfection procedure, transfected cells are identified and selected e.g. by cultivation in a selective medium chosen depending on the nature of the selection marker, for example standard culture media such as Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM), minimum essential medium, RPMI 1640 medium and the like, containing e.g. the corresponding antibiotic.

The transformed host cells are cultured by methods known in the art in a liquid medium containing assimilable sources of carbon, e.g. carbohydrates such as glucose or lactose, nitrogen, e.g. amino acids, peptides, proteins or their degradation products such as peptones, ammonium salts or the like, and inorganic salts, e.g. sulfates, phosphates and/or carbonates of sodium, potassium, magnesium and calcium. The medium furthermore contains, for example, growth-promoting substances, such as trace elements, for example iron, zinc, manganese and the like.

The medium is preferably so chosen as to exert a selection pressure and prevent the growth of cells which have not been transformed or have lost the hybrid vector. Thus, for example, an antibiotic is added to

the medium if the hybrid vector contains an antibiotic resistance gene as marker. If, for instance, a host cell is used which is auxotrophic in an essential amino acid whereas the hybrid vector contains a gene coding for an enzyme which complements the host defect, a minimal medium deficient of said amino acid is used to culture the transformed cells.

5 Cells of higher eukaryotic origin such as mammalian cells are grown under tissue culture conditions using commercially available media, for example Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM), minimum essential medium, RPMI 1640 medium and the like as mentioned above, optionally supplemented with growth-promoting substances and/or mammalian sera. Techniques for cell cultivation under tissue culture condition are well known in the art and include homogeneous suspension culture, e.g. in an airlift reactor or
10 in a continuous stirrer reactor, or immobilized or entrapped cell culture, e.g. in hollow fibres, microcapsules, on agarose microbeads, porous glass beads, ceramic cartridges, or other microcarriers.

Culturing is effected by processes which are known in the art. The culture conditions, such as temperature, pH value of the medium and fermentation time, are chosen so that a maximum titer of the polypeptide or derivative of the invention is obtained. Thus, an *E. coli* or yeast strain is preferably cultured
15 under aerobic conditions by submerged culture with shaking or stirring at a temperature of about 20 °C to 40 °C, preferably at about 30 °C, and a pH value of 4 to 8, preferably of about pH 7, for about 4 to 30 hours, preferably until maximum yields of the polypeptide or derivative of the invention are reached.

When the cell density has reached a sufficient value, the culture is interrupted and the polypeptide or derivative can be isolated. If the hybrid vector contains a suitable secretion signal sequence, the
20 polypeptide or derivative is excreted by the transformed cell directly into the culture medium. Otherwise, the cells have to be destroyed, for example by treatment with a detergent such as SDS, NP-40, Triton or deoxycholic acid, lysed with lysozyme or a similarly acting enzyme, or disrupted by ultra-sound. If yeast is used as a host microorganism, the cell wall may be removed by enzymatic digestion with a glucosidase. Alternatively or additionally, mechanical forces, such as shearing forces (e.g. French press, Dyno mill and
25 the like) or shaking with glass beads or aluminium oxide, or alternating freezing, for example in liquid nitrogen, and thawing, for example at 30 °C to 40 °C, as well as ultra-sound can be used to break the cells.

The cell supernatant or the solution obtained after centrifugation of the mixture obtained after breaking the cells, which contains proteins, nucleic acids and other cell constituents, is enriched in proteins, including the polypeptides of the invention, in a manner which is known *per se*. Thus, for example, most of the non-
30 protein constituents are removed by polyethyleneimine treatment and the proteins including the polypeptides and derivatives of the invention are precipitated, for example, by saturation of the solution with ammonium sulfate or with other salts. Otherwise, the cell supernatant or lysate is directly pre-purified using chromatographic methods as described hereinbefore.

The polypeptides and derivatives thereof according to the invention are useful for gaining a better
35 understanding of the role of the mononuclear phagocyte system, that is to say to define the lymphokine signal and the nature of the cellular response to it in macrophage populations.

Due to their inflammation mediator activity, the polypeptides and derivatives thereof according to the invention can be used to influence inflammatory processes. They are therefore useful for therapy of chronic inflammatory conditions.

40 In addition, the polypeptides or derivatives according to the invention are useful for the study, identification and production of antagonists which can be used as anti-inflammatory drugs.

The invention also concerns pharmaceutical compositions comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide or a derivative of the invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, e.g. an inorganic or organic, solid or liquid carrier.

45 The pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention are those for enteral, e.g. rectal or oral, administration and preferably for parenteral, e.g. intranasal, intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous, administration to warm-blooded animals including man. Depending on the intended method of administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may be in unit dose form, for example in ampoules, vials, suppositories, dragées, tablets, capsules or nasal sprays in liquid or solid form.

50 The amount of the therapeutically effective compound to be administered depends on the condition of the patient, such as the body weight, the nature and severity of the disease and the general condition and also on the mode of administration, and is carried out in accordance with the assessment of the physician giving the treatment. The effective dose of a polypeptide of the invention or a derivative thereof is in the order of magnitude of from 0.001 to 1 µg per kg body weight per day.

55 The pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention contain the customary inorganic or organic, solid or liquid pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, optionally together with other therapeutically effective compounds and/or adjuncts. There are preferably used solutions or suspensions of the active ingredient, especially isotonic aqueous solutions or suspensions, or also lyophilized preparations which are dissolved in

water shortly before use. The pharmaceutical compositions may be sterilized and/or contain preservatives, stabilizers, wetting agents, emulsifiers, solubilizers, viscosity-increasing substances, salts for regulating the osmotic pressure and/or buffers, and also other proteins, for example human serum albumin or human blood plasma preparations.

5 Preferred are pharmaceutical compositions in the form of liposomes in aqueous dispersion containing a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide or derivative thereof. There are suitable, in particular, liposomes having a population of as homogeneous a size as possible and a diameter of approximately from 0.2×10^{-8} to 5.0×10^{-6} m consisting of one or more double layers of lipid components, for example
10 amphipatic lipids such as phospholipids like lecithin, cephalin or phosphatidic acid, and optionally neutral lipids, for example cholesterol, enclosing an aqueous interior containing a polypeptide or derivative of the invention. Preferred are liposomes consisting of a mixture of synthetic phosphatidylserine and phosphatidylcholine.

The invention further concerns polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies specific for the polypeptides of the invention, or for derivatives according to the invention, in particular antibodies specific for MRP-160, for
15 rMRP-70, or for fragments of MRP-160, or derivatives of such antibodies which retain the specificity of the antibody from which they are derived.

Polyclonal antibodies of the invention are of mammalian origin, e.g. mouse, rat, rabbit, donkey, goat, sheep, equine, pig, chimpanzee or human origin, or of avian origin, e.g. chicken. Preferred are mouse, rat, rabbit, goat, sheep or chicken antibodies, in particular rabbit antibodies, or their derivatives. Preferred
20 polyclonal antibodies are specific for MRP-160, for rMRP-70 or for fragments of MRP-160 comprising between 12 and 30 consecutive amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1. Particularly preferred are polyclonal antibodies specific for MRP-160, for rMRP-70, or for the fragments of MRP-160 corresponding to amino acids 1189-1204, 1242-1255, 1409-1427, and 162-177, respectively, of SEQ ID NO:1. Most preferred are polyclonal rabbit antibodies specific for rMRP-70.

25 Preferred are monoclonal antibodies specific for the polypeptides of the invention or for derivatives according to the invention, in particular monoclonal antibodies specific for MRP-160 or for rMRP-70, or for fragments of MRP-160, or derivatives of such antibodies. Monoclonal antibodies of the invention are of mammalian origin, e.g. mouse, rat or human origin, preferably mouse origin. Preferred are monoclonal mouse antibodies specific for rMRP-70.

30 The specificity of an antibody towards a polypeptide or derivative of the invention can be detected qualitatively in an enzyme immunoassay wherein the wells of a microtiter plate are coated with the polypeptide, then treated with the antibody to be tested, and bound antibody is detected with labelled antiserum directed against the antibody. For example, the specificity of a mouse monoclonal antibody of the invention is determined in a sandwich type enzyme immunoassay wherein the wells of a microtiter plate are
35 coated with a rabbit polyclonal antibody specific for a polypeptide of the invention, followed by the polypeptide itself, then treated with the antibody to be tested, and bound monoclonal antibody is detected with labelled antiserum directed against the constant part of mouse antibodies.

Derivatives of an antibody of the invention retain the specificity of the antibody from which they are derived, i.e. they retain the characteristic binding pattern of the parent antibody. Examples of such
40 derivatives are antibody fragments, conjugates of the antibodies with an enzyme, a fluorescent marker, a chemiluminescent marker, a metal chelate, paramagnetic particles, avidin, biotin or the like, or radioactively labelled antibodies.

Antibody fragments of the invention are for example the univalent fragments Fab or Fab' or the divalent fragment F(ab)₂.

45 Enzymes used for antibody conjugates of the invention are, for example, horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, β -D-galactosidase, glucose oxidase, glucoamylase, carbonic anhydrase, acetylcholinesterase, lysozyme, malate dehydrogenase or glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase.

Fluorescent markers conjugated with antibodies of the invention can be fluorescein, fluorochrome, rhodamine, and the like.

50 Chemiluminescence markers are e.g. acridinium esters of luminol.

In such conjugates, the antibody is bound to the conjugation partner directly or by way of a spacer or linker group.

Examples of metal chelators are ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DPTA), 1,4,8,11-tetraazatetradecane, 1,4,8,11-tetraazatetradecane-1,4,8,11-tetraacetic acid, 1-oxa-
55 4,7,12,15-tetraazaheptadecane-4,7,12,15-tetraacetic acid, or the like.

Radioactively labelled antibodies of the invention contain e.g. radioactive iodine (¹²³I, ¹²⁵I, ¹³¹I), tritium (³H), carbon (¹⁴C), sulfur (³⁵S), yttrium (⁹⁰Y), technetium (^{99m}Tc), or the like.

Polyclonal antibodies of the invention and derivatives thereof are obtained by processes known per se.

for example by a process wherein a suitable mammal or bird is immunized with a polypeptide or derivative thereof according to the invention such as MRP-160, rMRP-70 or fragments of MRP-160, optionally in the presence of an adjuvant, the blood serum of the immunized mammal or eggs of the immunized bird are collected and, when required, the antibodies are isolated and/or converted into derivatives thereof.

5 Suitable mammals are those which recognize the antigen, i.e. the polypeptide or derivative thereof according to the invention, as a foreign molecule, for example mice, rats, rabbits, donkeys, goats, sheep, pigs or horses. Suitable birds are chicken.

The routes of immunization include, among others, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravascular and intracranial injections. Since high antibody titers are desired, a series of
10 injections is commonly given. The immunization is, for example, performed by injecting the antigen two, three, four or more times parenterally, e.g. intraperitoneally and/or subcutaneously, in regular or irregular intervals of a few days, e.g. three to seven days, up to several months, for example four weeks.

The antigen may be mixed with adjuvants, i.e. agents which will further increase the immune response, for the immunization procedure. Possible adjuvants are Freund's complete adjuvant (emulsion of mineral oil,
15 water, and mycobacterial extracts), Freund's incomplete adjuvant (emulsion of water and oil only), aluminium hydroxide gels etc.

The immune response of the mammal is preferably monitored by a suitable antibody assay, e.g. an enzyme immunoassay as described hereinbefore. The blood of the mammal is collected a few, e.g. two to five, days after the last injection. Likewise, the immune response of the bird is monitored by analyzing eggs
20 layed a few weeks, e.g. four to six weeks, after the last injection. The antibodies are isolated by known methods. They are first concentrated, e.g. by precipitation with ammonium sulfate, dialysis against hygroscopic material such as polyethylene glycol (PEG), filtration through selective membranes, or the like, and, if necessary and/or desired, the concentrated antibodies are purified by the customary chromatography methods, e.g. hydroxylapatite chromatography, immunoaffinity chromatography, gel filtration, ion exchange
25 chromatography, or chromatography over DEAE cellulose or protein A.

Fragments of the antibodies, for example Fab, Fab' or F(ab')₂ fragments, can be obtained from the antibodies prepared as described above by methods known per se, e.g. by digestion with enzymes such as papain or pepsin and/or cleavage of disulfide bonds by chemical reduction.

Conjugates of antibodies of the invention are prepared by methods known in the art, e.g. by reacting an
30 antibody prepared as described above in the presence of a coupling agent, e.g. glutaraldehyde, periodate, N,N'-o-phenylenedimaleimide, N-(m-maleimidobenzoyloxy)-succinimide, N-(3-[2'-pyridyldithio]-propionoxy)-succinimide, N-ethyl-N'-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide or the like. Conjugates with biotin are prepared e.g. by reacting antibodies with an activated ester of biotin such as the biotin N-hydroxysuccinimide ester. Conjugates with fluorescent or chemiluminescent markers are prepared in the presence of a coupling
35 agent, e.g. those listed above, or by reaction with an isothiocyanate, preferably fluorescein-isothiocyanate.

Antibodies radioactively labelled with iodine are obtained from the antibodies of the invention by iodination known per se for example with radioactive sodium or potassium iodide and a chemical oxidizing agent, such as sodium hypochlorite, chloramine T or the like, or an enzymatic oxidizing agent, such as lactoperoxidase or glucose oxidase and glucose. Antibodies according to the invention are coupled to
40 yttrium for example by diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DPTA)-chelation. Technetium-99m labelled antibodies are prepared by ligand exchange processes, for example by reducing pertechnetate (TcO₄) with stannous ion solution, chelating the reduced technetium onto a Sephadex column and applying the antibodies to this column, or by direct labelling techniques, e.g. by incubating pertechnetate, a reducing agent such as SnCl₂, a buffer solution such as sodium-potassium phthalate solution, and the antibodies.

45 The monoclonal antibodies of the invention and derivatives thereof are obtained by processes known per se wherein cells of a hybridoma cell line secreting the desired monoclonal antibodies are multiplied in vitro or in vivo and; when required, the obtained monoclonal antibodies are isolated and/or converted into derivatives thereof.

Multiplication in vitro is carried out in suitable culture media, which are the customary standard culture
50 media, for example Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM) or RPMI 1640 medium, optionally replenished by a mammalian serum, e.g. fetal calf serum, or trace elements and growth sustaining supplements, e.g. feeder cells such as normal mouse peritoneal exudate cells, spleen cells, bone marrow macrophages, 2-aminoethanol, insulin, transferrin, low density lipoprotein, oleic acid, or the like.

In vitro production provides relatively pure antibody preparations and allows scale-up to give large
55 amounts of the desired antibodies. Techniques for mammalian cell cultivation under tissue culture conditions are known in the art and include homogeneous suspension culture, e.g. in an airlift reactor or in a continuous stirrer reactor, or immobilized or entrapped cell culture, e.g. in hollow fibres, microcapsules, on agarose microbeads or ceramic cartridges.

Large quantities of the desired monoclonal antibodies can also be obtained by multiplying the cells *in vivo*. For this purpose, hybridoma cells producing the desired antibodies are injected into histocompatible mammals to cause growth of antibody-producing tumors. Optionally, the animals are primed with a hydrocarbon, especially mineral oils such as pristane (tetramethyl pentadecane), prior to the injection. After one to three weeks, the antibodies are isolated from the body fluids of those mammals. For example, hybridoma cells derived from Balb/c mice that produce the desired monoclonal antibodies are injected intraperitoneally into Balb/c mice optionally pre-treated with pristane, and, after one to two weeks, ascitic fluid is taken from the animals.

Isolation, purification and derivatization of the monoclonal antibodies is carried out as described above for polyclonal antibodies. Radioactively labelled monoclonal antibodies may also be prepared by adding radioactively labelled nutrients to the culture media of the *in vitro* cultivation. Such labelled nutrients contain e.g. radioactive carbon.

The invention further concerns hybridoma cell lines which secrete the monoclonal antibodies of the invention.

In particular, the invention concerns hybridoma cell lines which are hybrids of myeloma cells and B lymphocytes of a mammal immunized with a polypeptide or derivative thereof according to the invention. Preferentially, these cell lines are hybrids of mouse myeloma cells and B lymphocytes of a syngeneic mouse immunized with rMRP-70.

The hybridoma cell lines of the invention are genetically stable, secrete monoclonal antibodies of the invention with constant specificity and may be kept in deep-frozen cultures and reactivated by thawing and optionally re-cloning.

The invention also concerns a process for the preparation of hybridoma cell lines secreting the monoclonal antibodies of the invention wherein a suitable mammal is immunized with a polypeptide or derivative thereof according to the invention, antibody producing cells of this mammal are fused with cells of a continuous cell line, the hybrid cells obtained in the fusion are cloned, and cell clones secreting the desired monoclonal antibodies are selected.

The immunization is performed as hereinbefore described for the preparation of polyclonal antibodies. Antibody-producing cells of the immunized mammals, preferably lymphoid cells such as spleen lymphocytes, taken for example one to five days after the final injection, are fused with the cells of a continuous cell line, i.e. a continuously replicating cell clone which confers this replication ability to the hybrid cells resulting from the fusion. An example for such a cell line is a tumor cell line (myeloma) which does not itself actually produce immunoglobulins or fragments thereof but has the potential to produce and secrete large amounts of antibody, and which carries a genetic marker so that the hybrid cells can be selected against non-fused parent cells. Several suitable myeloma cell lines are known in the art. Preferred are myeloma cell lines lacking the enzyme hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (HGPRT) or the enzyme thymidine kinase (TK), which therefore do not survive in a selective culture medium containing hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine (HAT medium). Particularly preferred are myeloma cells and derived cell lines that do not survive in HAT medium and do not secrete immunoglobulins or fragments thereof, such as the cell lines P3x63Ag8.653 or Sp2/0-Ag14.

The fusion is performed in the presence of a fusion promoter, for example Sendai virus or other paramyxoviruses, optionally in UV-inactivated form, or chemical fusogens such as calcium ions, surface-active lipids, e.g. lysolecithin, or polyethylene glycol (PEG). Preferentially, the myeloma cells are fused with a three- to twentyfold excess of spleen cells from immunized mammals in a solution containing about 30% to about 60% of polyethylene glycol of a molecular weight between 1000 and 4000.

After the fusion, the cells are resuspended and cultivated in a selective medium chosen depending on the genetic selection marker, for example HAT medium. In this medium, only hybridoma cells will survive, because they combine the ability to grow and replicate *in vitro* like the parent myeloma cells and the missing HGPRT or TK genes essential for the survival in HAT medium inherited from the antibody-producing spleen cells of the immunized mammals.

Suitable culture media for the expansion of hybridoma cells are the standard culture media, such as Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM), minimum essential medium, RPMI 1640 medium and the like, optionally replenished by a mammalian serum, e.g. 10 to 15% fetal calf serum. Preferentially, feeder cells, e.g. normal mouse peritoneal exudate cells, spleen cells, bone marrow macrophages or the like, are added at the beginning of cell growth immediately after the fusion step to nourish the hybridoma cells and support their growth, especially where cell densities are low, by providing growth factors and the like. If phagocytic cells such as macrophages or monocytes are used, they can perform a helpful service in cleaning up the debris of dead myeloma cells always found after aminopterin treatment. The culture media are supplemented with selective medium in order to prevent myeloma cells from overgrowing the hybridoma cells.

The hybridoma cell culture supernatants are screened for the desired monoclonal antibodies, preferentially with an enzyme immunoassay or a radioimmunoassay. Positive hybridoma cells are cloned, e.g. by limiting dilution or in soft agar, preferentially twice or more. Optionally, hybridoma cells are passaged through animals, e.g. mice, by intraperitoneal injection and harvesting of ascites, which stabilizes hybridomas and improves growth characteristics. The cloned cell lines may be frozen in a conventional manner.

The polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies of the invention or their derivatives are useful for the qualitative and quantitative determination of the polypeptides or derivatives thereof according to the invention. These polypeptides and derivatives are markers for inflammatory conditions and at the same time markers for Hodgkin lymphomas.

For instance, the antibodies or derivatives thereof can be used in any of the known immunoassays which rely on the binding interaction between the antigenic determinants of the polypeptides or derivatives of the invention or the Hodgkin lymphoma markers and the paratopes of the antibodies. Examples of such assays are enzyme, radio-, fluorescence, chemiluminescence, immunoprecipitation, latex agglutination, hemagglutination immunoassays and immunostaining.

The antibodies according to the invention can be used as such or in the form of enzyme-conjugated derivatives in an enzyme immunoassay. Any of the known modifications of an enzyme immunoassay can be used, for example soluble phase (homogeneous) enzyme immunoassay, solid phase (heterogeneous) enzyme immunoassay, single enzyme immunoassay or double (sandwich) enzyme immunoassay with direct or indirect (competitive) determination of the polypeptides or derivatives of the invention.

An example of such an enzyme immunoassay is a sandwich enzyme immunoassay in which a suitable carrier, for example the plastic surface of a microtiter plate or of a test tube, e.g. of polystyrene, polypropylene or polyvinylchloride, glass or plastic beads, filter paper, dextran etc. cellulose acetate or nitrocellulose sheets, magnetic particles or the like, is coated with a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody of the invention by simple adsorption or optionally after activation of the carrier, for example with glutaraldehyde or cyanogen bromide. Then test solutions containing the polypeptides or derivatives of the invention or Hodgkin lymphoma markers and finally polyclonal antibodies which also react with the antigen and which are enzyme labelled, e.g. conjugated with alkaline phosphatase or horseradish peroxidase, are added. The amount of the polypeptides or derivatives thereof according to the invention or of Hodgkin lymphoma markers in the test solution is directly proportional to the amount of bound polyclonal antibodies and is determined by adding an enzyme substrate solution. The enzyme substrate reaction results, for example, in a color change which can be observed by eye or with optical measuring devices. The enzyme labelled polyclonal antibodies can be replaced by enzyme labelled monoclonal antibodies of the invention which recognize a different epitope of the antigen than the carrier-bound antibodies.

The antibodies according to the invention can be used as such or in the form of radioactively labelled derivatives in a radioimmunoassay (RIA). As described above for enzyme immunoassays, any of the known modifications of a radioimmunoassay can be used.

The tests are carried out in an analogous manner to the enzyme immunoassays described above using a radioactive label, e.g. ^{125}I , instead of an enzyme label. The amount of immune complex formed which corresponds to the amount of polypeptides or derivatives thereof according to the invention or of Hodgkin lymphoma markers present in the test solutions is determined by measuring the radioactivity of the immune complex.

The antibodies according to the invention can be used as such or in the form of derivatives conjugated with chemiluminescent markers in a chemiluminescence immunoassay. The tests are carried out in an analogous manner to the enzyme immunoassays described above using a chemiluminescent label instead of an enzyme label. The amount of immune complex formed which corresponds to the amount of polypeptides or derivatives thereof according to the invention or of Hodgkin lymphoma markers present in the test solutions is determined by adding a compound triggering luminescence, e.g. H_2O_2 and NaOH , and measuring the emission of light with optical measuring devices.

For immunostaining cryosections of cryopreserved biopsy material or paraffin embedded tissue sections are treated with a solution containing an antibody of the invention, then washed and developed with a second antibody binding to the antibody of the invention, which second antibody can be detected due to a radioactive label, an enzyme conjugated to it, a fluorescence marker, or biotin. Otherwise, the cryosection or embedded tissue is reacted with a solution of an antibody derivative of the invention as described hereinbefore, e.g. a radiolabelled derivative bearing ^{125}I , a conjugate with an enzyme, e.g. with horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase or β -D-galactosidase, a conjugate with a fluorescent marker, e.g. with fluorescein, or a conjugate with biotin. Bound radiolabelled antibodies are detected by scanning the radioactivity of the tissue sections. Bound antibody conjugates with enzymes are detected after treatment

with a suitable enzyme substrate, preferably an enzyme substrate which leads to a solid deposit (stain) at the site of the antibody or at the site of the second antibody binding to the antibody of the invention. In place of antibody conjugates with enzymes, antibody conjugates with biotin and a solution of avidin-enzyme-conjugate may be used, which leads to higher enzyme concentration at the site of the antibody and hence increased sensitivity of the immunostaining method. The solid deposit of the enzyme substrate is detected by inspection with a microscope or by scanning optical density at the wavelength of the stain. Staining by antibody conjugates with fluorescent markers is detected likewise.

The use according to the invention of antibodies and derivatives thereof as described hereinbefore for the determination of polypeptides or derivatives thereof according to the invention or of Hodgkin lymphoma markers also includes other immunoassays known per se, for example immunofluorescence assays, latex agglutination with antibody-coated or antigen coated latex particles, hemagglutination with antibody-coated or antigen-coated red blood corpuscles, evanescent light assays using an antibody-coated optical fibre and other direct-acting immunosensors which convert the binding event into an electrical or optical signal, or the like.

The invention relates also to test kits for the qualitative and quantitative determination of polypeptides or derivatives thereof according to the invention or of Hodgkin lymphoma markers comprising polyclonal and/or monoclonal antibodies of the invention and/or derivatives thereof and, optionally, other polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies and/or adjuncts.

Test kits according to the invention for an enzyme immunoassay or enzyme immunostaining contain, for example, a suitable carrier, optionally freeze-dried solutions of one or more polyclonal and/or monoclonal antibodies, optionally freeze-dried or concentrated solutions of an enzyme- or biotin-conjugated antibody, solutions of an enzyme-avidin conjugate if biotin-labelled antibody is used, enzyme substrate in solid or dissolved form, standard solutions of a polypeptide of the invention or a derivative thereof, buffer solutions, and, optionally, polypeptides or detergents for preventing non-specific adsorption and aggregate formation, pipettes, reaction vessels, calibration curves, instruction manuals and the like. One or more of the antibodies of the test kit are antibodies of the invention.

Test kits according to the invention for a radioimmunoassay or a corresponding immunostaining test contain, for example, a suitable carrier, optionally freeze-dried solutions of one or more polyclonal and/or monoclonal antibodies, solutions of a radioactively labelled antibody, standard solutions of a polypeptide of the invention or a derivative thereof, buffer solutions, and, optionally, polypeptides or detergents for preventing non-specific adsorption and aggregate formation, pipettes, reaction vessels, calibration curves, instruction manuals and the like. One or more of the antibodies of the test kit are antibodies of the invention.

The antibodies and antibody derivatives of the invention can be used for the qualitative and quantitative determination of polypeptides of the invention or derivatives thereof. Due to the fact that these polypeptides or derivatives are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation, the antibodies and antibody derivatives of the invention are thus useful for the simple and reliable diagnosis of inflammatory conditions, in particular of delayed type hypersensitivity reactions. The presence or the amount of the polypeptides of the invention or their derivatives can be determined in biological fluids such as human serum, joint fluid or plasma, in tissue sections and cells by standard diagnostic procedures, for example immunoassays as described above, preferentially enzyme immunoassays.

The determination of polypeptides and derivatives thereof according to the invention can also be used to monitor the treatment of inflammatory conditions during therapy since measuring the level of the polypeptides and derivatives thereof can assess effectiveness of therapy.

Furthermore, the antibodies and antibody derivatives of the invention are useful as antagonists to the natural mediator and can therefore be used to control inflammatory processes. The antibodies and antibody derivatives of the invention can be used for the isolation and purification of the polypeptides or derivatives of the invention from natural sources or from transformed host cells by immunoaffinity chromatography.

In addition the antibodies and antibody derivatives of the invention can be used for the localization of Hodgkin lymphoma in a patient using radioscanning techniques. To that end, radiolabelled derivatives of antibodies binding to MRP-160, rMRP-70 or MRP-160 fragments are injected into the patient, and the patient scanned with a gamma imager at regular intervals. Cells expressing Hodgkin lymphoma markers will take up more radioactive antibodies than other tissue and will be clearly recognized by the gamma imaging camera. Preferentially monoclonal antibodies labelled with ^{131}I or with $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ are used for radioscanning in amounts of 3 to 8 μg representing 15 to 30 μCi per kg body weight.

Further, the antibodies themselves and particularly derivatives thereof such as conjugates with cytotoxic and carcinostatic compounds can be used for the treatment of Hodgkin lymphoma. The therapeutic dose for mammals is between approximatively 10 μg and 1 mg per kg body weight for antibodies themselves, and between 1 μg and 100 μg per kg body weight for conjugates with cytotoxic drugs, depending on the status

of the patient and the mode of application.

The invention concerns also pharmaceutical compositions containing antibodies binding to MRP-160, rMRP-70 or MRP-160 fragments, or derivatives thereof, in a therapeutically effective amount together with a pharmaceutical carrier, solid or liquid, of organic or inorganic, for the treatment of Hodgkin lymphoma.

Suitable pharmaceutical compositions are those described above, but containing antibodies of the invention in place of the polypeptide or polypeptide derivatives.

| Abbreviations | |
|---------------|--|
| BSA | bovine serum albumin |
| BCIP | 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate |
| CIAP | calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase |
| dNTP | deoxyribonucleoside triphosphate (N = adenine, cytosine, guanine or thymine) |
| DTT | dithiothreitol |
| FPLC | fast protein liquid chromatography |
| IPTG | isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside |
| L-broth | Luria broth |
| MAb | monoclonal antibody |
| NBT | nitro blue tetrazolium |
| OD | optical density |
| pdN6 | pNpNpNpNpNpN (N = deoxynucleotide), random 6-mer |
| rATP | (ribo)adenosine 5'-triphosphate |
| RT | room temperature |
| SDS | sodium dodecyl sulfate |
| TE buffer | Tris-EDTA buffer |
| U | unit(s) |

Examples

Example 1: Construction of the human cDNA libraries L132 and MNC

1.1 Isolation of mRNA from human L132 cells

1.1.1 Isolation of total RNA

A 5 ml pellet of 8×10^8 L132 cells (ATTC CCL5, human embryonic epithelial lung cells) is dissolved in 20 ml of 0.8 μ M filtered GuSCN solution containing 4 M guanidine isothiocyanate, 25 mM sodium acetate pH 6 and 120 mM β -mercaptoethanol. After vigorous shaking, the DNA is partially sheared by ten successive passages through a 22G needle. The solution is layered on top of three CsCl-cushions consisting of 4 ml of a solution of 5.7 M CsCl in 25 mM sodium acetate pH 6 in polypropylene tubes and is centrifuged for 16 hrs at 20°C at 29,000 rpm in a TST41 rotor (Kontron). The supernatant is carefully removed, and the pellets are redissolved in 1.5 ml 0.2 % SDS and extracted with 1.5 ml chloroform. The RNA is precipitated from the aqueous phase by addition of two volumes of ethanol, redissolved in 1.5 ml 0.2% SDS and reprecipitated by addition of sodium acetate pH 6 to 0.15 M and two volumes of ethanol.

1.1.2 Isolation of mRNA

The RNA pellet containing 14 mg of total RNA is dissolved in 5 ml of elution buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA and 0.2% SDS), heated at 65°C for 2 min and cooled quickly to room temperature. After addition of 0.55 ml of 5 M NaCl, the solution is applied three times to a column of 0.5 g of oligo-dT cellulose (type 7, Pharmacia) equilibrated in wash buffer (0.5 M NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA

and 0.2% SDS). After washing the column with 15 ml of wash buffer, the bound RNA is eluted in 4 ml of elution buffer. The eluted material is heated at 65 °C for 2 min, cooled, adjusted to 0.5 M NaCl and re-applied to the re-equilibrated column (three times). After washing with 15 ml of wash buffer, the mRNA is eluted from the column in 4 ml of elution buffer and precipitated overnight at -20 °C after addition of 0.25 ml
 5 3 M sodium acetate pH 6 and 10 ml of ethanol. The precipitate (275 µg) is collected by centrifugation (15 min at 16,000 g), dissolved in 0.4 ml of H₂O and precipitated by addition of 25 µl sodium acetate (3 M, pH 6) and 1 ml of ethanol. After chilling in dry ice for 10 min, the RNA is collected by centrifugation for 5 min in an Eppendorf centrifuge. The pellet is air dried and redissolved in 275 µl H₂O.

10

1.2 Synthesis of double stranded cDNA for cloning in bacteriophage lambda gt 11

In the beginning, single-stranded cDNA is synthesized using the L132 mRNA of Example 1.1.2 or RNA from human peripheral blood mononuclear leukocytes (MNC; prepared as described in European Patent
 15 Application 0 263 072) as templates. Two 10 µg samples of L132 mRNA or 20 µg of MNC RNA are incubated for 1 hr at 43 °C each in 50 µl solution containing 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.3, measured at 43 °C), 10 mM MgCl₂, 140 mM KCl, 10 mM DTT, 1 mM of each dNTP, 100 µg/ml of oligo-dT(12-18) (Pharmacia), 90 U of RNasin™ (Promega Biotech), 40 U of AMV reverse transcriptase (Genofit) and 5 µCi of α-³²P-dCTP (3000 Ci/mmol). After combining the two corresponding samples, the RNA-DNA hybrid molecules are
 20 recovered as follows: The sample is adjusted to a molarity of 20 mM in EDTA (pH 7.5) and 0.2 % in SDS, extracted with an equal volume of phenol-chloroform (1:1, equilibrated with TNE: 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA) and loaded on a 1.5 ml column of Sepharose-4B (Pharmacia, equilibrated in TNE containing 300 mM NaCl [total]). Upon washing the column with the same buffer, the fractions containing at least 90 % of the material (judged by the incorporated ³²P) are combined (4-5x 50 µl), and
 25 two volumes of ethanol are added. After chilling in dry ice for 10 min, the precipitate is recovered by centrifugation for 5 min in an Eppendorf centrifuge, washed with 0.1 ml of 70% ethanol, and air-dried. The RNA-DNA hybrids are re-incubated for 1 hr at 43 °C in a 50 µl reaction as described above, with omission of the oligo-dT. The reaction mixture is then adjusted to 20 mM in EDTA, and 3.8 µl of 1 N NaOH are added. The reaction mixture is then incubated for 20 min at 75 °C, cooled, neutralized by addition of 25 µl
 30 of 1 M Tris-HCl pH 8 and 6 µl of 1 N HCl, and the single stranded cDNA is recovered as described above for the RNA-DNA hybrids.

For second strand synthesis, 5 µg of single-stranded cDNA are incubated for 30 min at 37 °C in 100 µl buffer containing 33 mM Tris-acetate pH 7.9, 66 mM potassium acetate, 10 mM magnesium acetate, 0.5 mM DTT, 1 mg/ml BSA (Pentax fraction V, Calbiochem), 10 ng/ml pdN6 (Pharmacia), 1 mM of each dNTP,
 35 10 µCi of α-³²P-dCTP (3000 Ci/mmol) and 500 U/ml T4 DNA polymerase (FPLC-pure, Pharmacia). The double-stranded cDNA is recovered as described above for RNA-DNA hybrids.

In the next step, the cDNA is digested with S1 nuclease by the procedure described in the following. 6 µg of cDNA is incubated for 5 min at 37 °C in 50 µl of a solution containing 200 mM NaCl, 50 mM sodium acetate pH 4.5, 1 mM ZnSO₄ and 0.5% glycerol. 2.5 U of S1 nuclease (Pharmacia) are added, and the
 40 incubation is continued for 10 min. The DNA is recovered as described above for RNA-DNA hybrids.

Then, EcoRI methylation is carried out as follows. 4 µg of double-stranded cDNA are incubated for 20 min at 37 °C in 50 µl solution containing 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.5 mM EDTA, 0.4 mg/ml BSA (Pentax fraction V, Calbiochem), 15 µM S-adenosyl methionine (Biolabs) and 100 U EcoRI methylase (Promega Biotech). The reaction is stopped by incubation at 65 °C for 10 min. After addition of 4 µl 0.5 M EDTA, 100
 45 µl TNE and 1 µl 20% SDS, the solution is extracted with phenol-chloroform and the DNA is recovered by ethanol precipitation as described above.

For treatment with T4 polymerase (Boehringer), 3 µg of cDNA are incubated for 15 min at 37 °C in 50 µl of a solution as described above for the second strand synthesis without pdN6, and DNA is recovered as described above for RNA-DNA hybrids.

Then, synthetic oligonucleotide linkers are ligated to the blunt ends of the DNA fragments with T4 ligase as described in the following. 2.5 µg of cDNA are incubated overnight at 15 °C in 30 µl solution containing 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.8, 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM rATP, 3 A₂₆₀ U/ml EcoRI linker (PCCGGAATTCCGG, Biolabs) and 800 U of T4 ligase (Biolabs). The reaction is stopped by incubation at
 50 65 °C for 10 min. After addition of 60 µl H₂O, 10 µl of a solution containing 1 M NaCl, 0.5 M Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 0.1 M MgCl₂, 10 mM DTT and 90 U of EcoRI (Boehringer) are added and the reaction mixture is
 55 incubated at 37 °C for 3 hrs. The cDNA is recovered as described for RNA-DNA hybrids with the exception that after the ethanol precipitation the DNA is rechromatographed on a second Sepharose 4B column.

1.3 Cloning of cDNA in lambda gt 11

25 ng of each of the cDNAs L132 and MNC of Example 1.2 are ligated overnight at 15 °C to 0.5 µg of dephosphorylated EcoRI-digested lambda gt11 arms (Promega Biotech) in 10 µl solution containing 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.8, 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM rATP and 400 U T4 ligase (Biolabs).

The ligated DNAs are packaged by using Gigapack Gold™ packaging extracts (Stratagene) and incubation at 20 °C for 2 hrs as described by the manufacturer. 0.5 ml of SM buffer (phage dilution buffer consisting of 100 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 8 mM MgSO₄, 0.01% gelatin) and 20 µl of chloroform are added and the phage suspension is stored at 4 °C.

For the preparation of competent cells which can be transformed with lambda gt11, 2 ml of an overnight culture of E. coli Y1090 (Promega Biotech) are added to 200 ml of TY medium (8g/l tryptone, 5g/l yeast extract, 2.5 g/l NaCl) supplemented with 0.2% maltose and 50 µg/ml ampicillin and incubated at 37 °C. When the OD₆₀₀ reaches 0.7, the cells are collected by centrifugation and resuspended in 50 ml 50 mM MgSO₄.

10 µl of serial dilutions of the phage suspension described above are added to 100 µl of a suspension of competent Y1090 cells, incubated at 37 °C for 30 min, added to 4 ml of melted top-agar (55 °C) containing 20 µl of 20 mg/ml IPTG in H₂O and 20 µl of 20 mg/ml Blu-gal™ (BRL) in N,N-dimethylformamide, and plated on TY plates. After overnight incubation at 37 °C, the titer for the phage suspension containing L132 cDNA is calculated to be 10⁷/ml, 4% of which is wild type phage. The titer for the phage suspension containing mononuclear leukocyte cDNA is calculated to be 2x10⁶, 30% of which is wild type.

Example 2: Screening of lambda gt11 murine and human cDNA expression libraries for cDNA encoding the molecule which reacts with the monoclonal antibody 1C5

A cDNA library from linoleic acid induced mouse peritoneal macrophages (ML 1005B) and a cDNA library of uninduced human U937 cells (HL1029B), which are both lambda gt11 expression libraries and are purchased from Genofit, are screened using an immunoperoxidase technique. The screening is carried out to identify cDNA encoding the molecule that binds the monoclonal antibody 1C5 (MAb 1C5). This monoclonal antibody is described in the European Patent Application 0 162 812. It is produced by the murine hybridoma cell line with the designation 1C5 (CNCM deposition number I-316) and is specific for a human macrophage migration inhibition factor (MIF).

The cDNA libraries are titrated to yield 2x10⁹ phages per ml, diluted 1:1000 with SM buffer, and for each library ten aliquots (20 µl) are incubated for 20 min at RT with ten aliquots (1 ml) of a suspension of competent Y1090 cells of Example 1.3. 10 ml of melted TY top agar (60 °C) are added to each sample, which is plated on 15 cm TY agar plates. After 10 min, the plates are incubated at 42 °C for 3.5 hrs.

At RT a 0.45 µm nitrocellulose membrane (Schleicher and Schuell) is placed onto each plate, allowed to wet and sprayed three times with a film of 1.35 g/l IPTG in H₂O. After 10 min, the plates are incubated for 3.5 hrs at 37 °C. After position-marking, the filters are rinsed in TBST buffer (150 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8 and 0.05% Tween® 20), followed by slow rocking for 30 min at RT in the same buffer supplemented with 1% non-fat milk powder, and another rinse with TBST buffer.

The 2x10 filters are slowly rocked overnight at RT in 2x200 ml TBST buffer supplemented with 1% non-fat milk powder and 20 mg/ml of MAb 1C5. The filters are washed three times for 15 min with TBST and incubated for 30 min at RT with 2x200 ml alkaline phosphatase-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (Dianova), which is diluted 1:2500 with TBST supplemented with 1% non-fat milk powder. The filters are washed three times for 15 min with TBST.

The filters are developed by the addition of a color reagent which has the following composition: 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.5, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5% of a 75 mg/ml solution of NBT (Biorad) in 70% dimethylformamide and 0.33% of a 50 mg/ml solution of BCIP (Biorad) in 100% dimethylformamide. 10 ml color reagent is added per filter and the reaction is allowed to proceed at RT until signals have clearly appeared (up to 4 hrs), after which the reaction is stopped by placing the filters in a solution containing 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8 and 5 mM EDTA.

Positive plaques are picked and shaken for 1 hr at RT in 1 ml SM buffer containing 20 µl chloroform. Serial dilutions in SM are plated and screened with MAb 1C5 as described above. The process is repeated until all plaques give a positive reaction. From each of the cDNA libraries, two positive plaques are isolated: M9 and M10 from the mouse library ML1005B, and H31 and H35 from the human library HL1029B.

Example 3: Isolation of cDNA inserts of recombinant phage DNA M9, M10, H31 and H353.1 Isolation of recombinant phage DNA

100 µl of the phage suspensions of Example 2 and a suspension of competent Y1090 cells of Example 1.3 are mixed, left at RT for 20 min and added to 100 ml TY medium supplemented with 10 mM MgSO₄. After shaking at 250 rpm overnight in a 1 l flask at 37 °C, 1 ml of chloroform and 100 µg of RNase A are added. After 30 min at RT, NaCl is added to give a molarity of 1 M, and after 1 hr on ice the solution is cleared by centrifugation (20 min at 2,000 rpm in a H6000 Sorvall rotor). Polyethylene glycol 6000 is added to the supernatant to result in a final concentration of 10%, the mixture is left on ice for 1 hr, and the phage is pelleted by centrifugation (20 min at 3,000 rpm in a H6000 Sorvall rotor). The phage pellet is resuspended in 2 ml SM buffer supplemented with 100 µg RNase A and 50 µg DNase I. After 30 min at RT, the solution is extracted with 4 ml of chloroform followed by centrifugation (5 min at 1,500 g). The aqueous phase is adjusted to 10 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS and 200 µg pronase, left at RT for 15 min and extracted with 4 ml of chloroform followed by centrifugation (5 min at 1,500 g). The aqueous phase is adjusted to 0.5 M NaClO₄ and 33% 2-propanol. After 1 hr on ice the DNA is recovered by centrifugation (10 min at 10,000 g). The DNA is dissolved in 200 µl TE (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA) and reprecipitated by addition of 200 µl 5 M ammonium acetate and 0.8 ml 2-propanol followed by centrifugation (10 min at 10,000 g). After washing with 70% ethanol, the DNA is dissolved in 200 µl TE.

3.2 Isolation of cDNA inserts

10 µg of phage DNA are digested for 1 hr at 37 °C in 100 µl solution containing 100 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT and 50 U of EcoRI. The cDNA inserts are isolated by preparative agarose gel electrophoresis followed by electroelution. The sizes of the recombinant phage DNA inserts M9, M10, H31 and H35 of Example 2 all appear to be 2.3 kb.

3.3 Subcloning of the isolated cDNA inserts

The EcoRI cDNA inserts are subcloned into the vector pBLUKSPTM (Stratagene) using established procedures (T.Manias et al., "Molecular cloning, a laboratory manual", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1982).

Example 4: Identification of the desired cDNA sequences in the human lambda gt11 cDNA libraries L132 and MNC by cross-hybridization

The cDNA encoding the molecule which reacts with MAb1 C5 is identified in the human lambda gt11 cDNA libraries L132 and MNC of Example 1.3 by successive screening using MAb 1C5, the cDNA inserts of Example 3.2 and subfragments thereof.

5x 10⁵ plaques each of the cDNA libraries L132 and MNC (constructed as described in Example 1.3), of the commercially available cDNA libraries ML1005B and HL1029B (Example 2) and the uninduced human leukemia derived HL 60 library HL1020B (Genofit) are plated on ten 15 cm plates as described above in Example 1.3 with omission of IPTG and Blu-galTM. Two replica filters (NEF-978A, NEN) are made of each plate according to established procedures (T.Manias et al., "Molecular cloning, a laboratory manual", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1982). Several rounds of hybridization as described in the following are performed with the radioactively labelled probes listed in Table 1 below.

The hybridization procedure is carried out as follows. The filters are prehybridized for 2 hrs at 65 °C in a solution (10 ml/filter) containing 2x Denhardt's solution, 6x SSC (saline-sodium citrate buffer, see T. Manias et al., loc. cit.), 0.2% SDS and 50 µg/ml of denatured calf thymus DNA. Hybridization is performed overnight at 65 °C in the same solution containing the heat denatured oligo-labelled cDNA probe (3-6x10⁶ dpm per filter) according to Table 1 below. Oligo labeling of the appropriate cDNA fragments is performed as follows: 0.1 µg of DNA in 13 µl is placed at 95 °C for 5 min, cooled and briefly centrifuged. After addition of 2 µl of 10x NT buffer (0.5 M Tris-HCl pH 7.2, 0.1 M MgSO₄, 1 mM DTT and 0.5 mg/ml BSA [Pentax fraction V, Calbiochem]), 1 µl of a solution containing 20 mM of each dGTP, dTTP and dATP, 3 µl of α-³²P-

dCTP (10 mCi/ml, 3000 Ci/mmol), 1 μ l pdN6 (1 mg/ml, Pharmacia) and 1 μ l DNA polymerase I (5 U/ μ l, Boehringer), the mixture is incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. The labelled DNA (5×10^8 dpm/ μ g) is recovered as described for RNA-DNA hybrids in Example 1.2. After the hybridization, the filters are washed for 15 min at 65 °C in two changes of the following solutions: 2x SSC, 0.2% SDS; 1x SSC, 0.2% SDS and 0.5x SSC, 0.2% SDS. Positive plaques are visualized by autoradiography.

The cDNA subfragments identified in the individual libraries in the hybridization experiments are listed in Table 1 below. Of each probe cDNA fragment the name of the clone is given as well as the relative approximate location on the sequence of MRP- 160 (see Example 5.2).

Table 1

| cDNA clones used for hybridization | | | | | |
|---|--|---------|---------|-------|--------|
| probe used for identification of cDNA subfragments/location | designation of cDNA subfragments identified in each cDNA library | | | | |
| | ML1005B | HL1020B | HL1029B | L132 | MNC |
| 1C5 | M9,M10 | | H31,H35 | | |
| M10 insert 3500-5800 | M10.1 | H25 | (H35)* | | |
| M10.1 small EcoRI fragment 3020-3500 | | H23 | H12 | | |
| H23 HindIII- EcoRI fragment 3750-4710 | | H70 | H67,H69 | | |
| H23 PstI-EcoRI fragment 2735-3275 | | H4,H5 | | | |
| H4 EcoRI-KpnI fragment 140-1170 | | | | L4,L7 | |
| pMRP-160 BglII fragment 1-1160 | | | | | N2,N3 |
| pMRP-160 BglII fragment 3670-4720 | | | | | N1,N10 |

* pure phage plated

Example 5: Isolation and determination of nucleotide sequences of the overlapping cDNA subfragments

5.1 Plaque purification

Positive plaques identified by plaque hybridization as described in Example 4 are picked and serial dilutions are plated as described above in Examples 1.3 and 2. The purification cycle is repeated until all plaques are positive. Phage DNA is prepared and the cDNA inserts (see Table 1) are isolated and subcloned as described above in Example 3.

5.2 Sequence determination

Restriction enzyme analysis of the cDNA subfragments is performed using standard procedures. Convenient restriction fragments from the cDNA subfragments are cloned in the vectors pBLUSCRIPTTM or pUCK0 (K. Odink et al., Nature 330 ,80,1987).

cDNA sequence determination is carried out by the dideoxy nucleotide chain termination reaction method using double-stranded DNA and the sequenaseTM-kit and -protocol (United States Biochemical; M.Haltiner et al., Nucl.Acids Res. 13 ,1015,1985). Universal primers are obtained from Stratagene. For internal priming and sequence verification, primers as listed in Table 2 are synthesized (Y.Ike et al., Nucl.Acid Research 11 , 477, 1983). The sequence is determined in both directions, and if restriction sites are used in the sequence strategy they are confirmed using the overlapping fragments and internal primers of Table 2.

Table 2

| Oligonucleotide primers used for sequencing | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. H 0263s | ACTCCATCATCTGAGAC |
| 2. H 0310r | ACTCGAAAGTCATCCAC |
| 3. H 0600r | ATGCTGGCCGTAGAAGT |
| 4. H 0621s | CCTTCAAACATCCCTCA |
| 5. B 0793s | TGGTGGCACTAAGGCTG |
| 6. B 0865r | CACGCCACACCACTCCC |
| 7. H 0883s | GAAGAATGATGGCGCTG |
| 8. H 0900r | CAGCGCCATCATTCTTC |
| 9. B 1190s | TCCAGGAGGCCCTGAAG |
| 10. H 1450r | AGGTCTCAACCTTCCT |
| 11. H 1601s | GGTGGCTACAGTTTCAG |
| 12. H 1650r | GGTCTTTCTCCAGTTCC |
| 13. B 1782r | GCTTCTAGCTTTTCTTG |
| 14. B 1855s | GAAGGAGATAAAGGCTC |
| 15. H 2053s | GAGACGGCAGAATTTGC |
| 16. H 2379s | ACATCACAGCTCAAGGC |
| 17. H 2513r | TTAATCTGTTTCTCAG |
| 18. H 2610s | AGTGAAAGAGACTTTGG |
| 19. H 2884s | ATGTCAGGAGATAACTC |
| 20. H 3111s | GAAATTGTGGACCTGG |
| 21. H 3157s | GCCAGGTATGAGAGAGC |
| 22. H 3476s | ATGTGGAAGAGCTGAAC |
| 23. H 3492r | G TTCAGCTCTTCCACAT |
| 24. B 3605r | ACTTCTGAGCTGCTGCC |
| 25. H 3731s | CCAAGTTCATAAAAAGAC |
| 26. H 4111r | CCACCTTCATCTTGAGG |
| 27. H 4200s | CAGTCCAAGAAGAAACC |
| 28. H 4250r | TCTGTGTCGTGGAGATC |
| 29. H 4400s | CCTCCAGTGGAGAAGT |
| 30. pUCK0r | CAGTGAGCGAGGAAGCG |
| <p>The number indicates the approximate location on the sequence of MRP-160 (see SEQ ID NO: 1). An H means that the oligonucleotide is predicted on the human sequence, a B means that the oligonucleotide will prime on both human and mouse sequences. Some oligonucleotides do not fit the MRP-160 sequence completely. Number 30 is a universal primer for pUCK0.</p> | |

The 6 kb cDNA codes for a precursor protein of approximately 160 kD designated MRP-160. The full sequence of MRP-160 cDNA and the predicted amino acid sequence are shown in SEQ ID NO: 1. A sequence of 105 nucleotides, probably representing one exon, is found to be missing from clones H5 and N2. The position of the cDNA subfragments of Example 4 on the MRP-160 sequence are given in Table 3.

membrane, Amicon).

9.4 Ion exchange chromatography on FPLC-Mono QTM

4 ml of the concentrated pool after ultrafiltration of Example 9.3 (protein concentration 4.9 mg/ml) are loaded onto a Mono QTM HR 10/10 column (10 mm x 100 mm) (Pharmacia) equilibrated in 20 mM diethanolamine/HCl, pH 8.5 (starting buffer). The column is washed at a flow rate of 4 ml/min for 10 min with starting buffer. Proteins are then eluted by a linear gradient over 20 min ending with starting buffer/0.1 M NaCl. The eluate is monitored for absorbance at 280 nm. rMRP-70 is eluted between 21 and 23 min after injection of the sample (ca. 0.55 to 0.65 M NaCl).

9.5 Reversed phase HPLC

Alternatively to the purification by size exclusion HPLC described in Example 9.3 or FPLC on Mono Q described in Example 9.4, the concentrated pool after ultrafiltration of Example 9.2 is acidified with 1/10 of the volume of 10% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and purified on a Vydac 214TP510 HPLC column (10 x 250 mm) (The Separation Group, Hesperia, CA, USA). The column is equilibrated in a mixture of 70% TFA 0.1% in water and 30% TFA 0.08% in acetonitrile, and the product is eluted by a linear gradient over 24 min ending with a mixture of 50% TFA 0.1% in water and 50% TFA 0.08% in acetonitrile at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. The eluate is monitored for absorbance at 220 nm and individual peaks are collected manually according to the UV absorbance. Two main peaks are obtained at 15 min and 16.5 min, respectively, and analyzed as described below in Example 9.6.

9.6 Analysis by SDS-PAGE

Aliquots of fractions from the reverse phase column of Example 9.5 are dried in vacuo, dissolved in dissociation buffer, heated for 2 min at 96°C and applied to a 15% polyacrylamide gel (staining with Coomassie Blue R-250). The 15 min peak of Example 9.5 contains several shortened versions of rMRP-70 of approximate apparent molecular weights of 55 kD, 44 kD, 38 kD and 33 kD, respectively. The material of the 16.5 min peak consists of pure rMRP-70 migrating in a single band with an approximate molecular weight of 70 kD.

9.7 Amino acid sequence analysis

The purified rMRP-70 of Example 9.6 is subjected to N-terminal amino acid sequence analysis using a gas-phase sequencer (Model 470, Applied Biosystems) according to the method of M.W. Hunkapillar and L.E. Hood (Methods in Enzymol. 91, 399, 1983). The anilino-thiazolinone derivatives are rearranged to phenylthiohydantoin (PTH) amino acids by treatment with 25% aqueous TFA at 50°C. The PTH amino acids are analyzed on a Zorbax™ CN HPLC column (DuPont; 200 x 4.6 mm) according to R. Knecht et al. (Anal. Biochem. 130, 65, 1983). The following N-terminal amino acid sequence is found: Met-Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly-Asn-Met-Leu-Ser. The amino acid sequence exactly matches the sequence predicted from the cDNA construction described in Example 5.2.

9.8 Immunofluorescence analysis

Monocytes in Teflon bags are harvested after three days culture in Mc Coy's medium (Biochrom, Berlin, FRG) supplemented with 20% human serum by centrifugation for 10 min at 150 g, washed in PBS and incubated for 30 min at 4°C in 1% BSA, 1 µg/ml mouse IgG in 1 ml PBS/1x10⁷ cells. The cells are washed twice in PBS and aliquoted to 1x10⁶ cells per testpoint in 1.5 ml Eppendorf vials. Incubation in a proper dilution of rMRP-70 or natural human MIF (European Patent Application 0 162 812) (100 µl/1x10⁶ cells in PBS) is performed for 10 min at 4°C. The cells are washed twice in PBS and incubated 45 min with either biotinylated monoclonal antibody 1C5 (mouse, see EP 0 162 812) or anti-rMRP-70 serum (rabbit). Controls are biotinylated mouse IgG or normal rabbit IgG, respectively. After two washes in PBS/0.05%

BSA the cells are incubated with streptavidin-FITC (Sigma, München, FRG) for the biotinylated antibody-treated probes and with goat anti-rabbit F(ab')₂-FITC (Dianova, Hamburg, FRG) for the rabbit antiserum-treated probes for 45 min at 4 °C. The cells are washed twice in PBS/0.05% BSA. Before the last wash the cells are resuspended in 100 µl 1 mM Propidiumjodide in PBS, incubated 5 min at 4 °C, washed, and analyzed in an EPICSTM cell sorter (Coulter Electronics, Hialeah, Fla., USA). Red fluorescent cells are electronically excluded from the green fluorescence measurement of the cells. The percentage of green fluorescence positive cells is calculated with the immuno-program supplied by Coulter Electronics.

The relative amount of the fluorescent cells is similar for rMRP-70 and natural MIF. This indicates that both natural MIF and rMRP-70 bind to cultivated monocytes.

9.9 Migration inhibition test

Buffy coat monocytes cultivated for one day in Dulbecco's medium supplemented with 10% FCS (Biochrom, Berlin, FRG) on Teflon membranes are harvested by centrifugation for 10 min at 150 g, washed twice in Dulbecco's medium without FCS and aliquoted to 2×10^6 cells/testpoint in 1.5 ml Eppendorf vials. The cells are resuspended and incubated for 10 min at 4 °C with 200 µl PBS with or without a proper dilution of rMRP-70 or natural MIF (EP 0 162 812). The cells are centrifuged 5 min at 150 g, washed, resuspended in 200 µl PBS and incubated for 30 min at 37 °C.

After washing with PBS the pelleted cells are resuspended in 4 µl Dulbecco's medium containing 0.2% low melting agarose (Miles, Frankfurt, FRG) at 37 °C. One µl of cell suspension is pipetted into one of the inner 60 wells of a 96 well plate. Each sample is tested in duplicate. The plate is kept at 4 °C for 10 min. The wells are filled with 100 µl/well Dulbecco's medium, 10% FCS and incubated for 16-24 hrs at 37 °C in moist air containing 7% CO₂.

After incubation the migration of monocytes out of the agarose droplets is measured with the aid of a graduated reticule in the ocular of a microscope. The migration of the cells in the control solution is set as 100% migration or 0% migration inhibition. The migration distance is expressed as per cent migration inhibition. A substance is considered biologically active when it causes more than 30% migration inhibition.

The results of the migration inhibition test with rMRP-70 are summarized in Table 4 below.

Table 4

| Migration inhibition of cultivated monocytes by rMRP-70 | |
|---|-------------------------|
| concentration of rMRP-70 µg/ml | migration inhibition |
| 0.001 | 15 % |
| 0.01 | 24 % |
| 0.1 | 50 % |
| 1 | 57 % |
| 10 | 43 % |

Example 10: Construction of the expression vector pCDEX

10 µg of pSV0d DNA (P.Mellon et al., Cell 27, 279, 1981) are digested with HindIII. The sticky ends are filled with Klenow polymerase, and after heat inactivation of the polymerase the DNA is digested with NaeI. The 2.2 kb vector fragment carrying the SV40 origin of replication is isolated by agarose gel electrophoresis and electroelution (fragment a). 10 µg of pCGA28 DNA (European Patent Application 0 305 967) are digested with BamHI. The sticky ends are filled with Klenow polymerase, and the DNA is dephosphorylated with calf intestinal phosphatase. The 3.9 kb fragment carrying the murine cytomegalovirus (MCMV) promoter/enhancer, tPA cDNA and a β-globin splice donor/acceptor and poly-addition site, is isolated by agarose gel electrophoresis and electroelution (fragment b). Approximately 50 ng of the fragments a and b

are ligated and transformed into competent DH5 α cells. Recombinant plasmids are isolated and analyzed by digestion with PvuI and HindIII. A plasmid yielding a 1.4 kb and a 4.8 kb fragment is designated pCON10. 5 μ g of pCON10 are digested with XmaI and dephosphorylated with CIAP (fragment d). The DNA is purified by agarose gel electrophoresis and electroelution.

1 μ g of an adaptor (Biolabs # 1101) with the sequence 5'-GATCCCCGGG-3' is kinased with T4 polynucleotide kinase and ligated with T4 ligase. After heat inactivation of the ligase, the DNA is digested with XmaI. After extraction with phenol/chloroform, the DNA is precipitated with ethanol (adaptor e).

50 ng of DNA fragment d is ligated to 50 ng of adaptor e and transfected into competent DH5 α cells. Recombinant DNA is isolated and analyzed by digestion with BamHI and HindIII. A plasmid yielding fragments of 1.7 kb and 4.4 kb is designated pCDEX.

Example 11: Construction of pMRP160_{ex}

5 μ g of pMRP160 are digested with EcoRI and the sticky ends are filled with Klenow polymerase. The 4.7 kb fragment coding for MRP-160 is isolated by agarose gel electrophoresis and electroelution (fragment a). 5 μ g of pCDEX are digested with HindIII and BamHI. The sticky ends are filled with Klenow polymerase and the DNA is dephosphorylated with CIAP. The 4.5 kb vector fragment is isolated by agarose gel electrophoresis and electroelution (fragment b). 0.1 μ g of the fragments a and b are ligated and transformed into competent DH5 α cells. Recombinant DNA is isolated and analyzed by restriction analysis. A plasmid yielding a 0.6 kb KpnI fragment as well as an XhoI fragment of 4.1 kb is designated pMRP160_{ex}.

The sequence of the MRP-160 coding region is confirmed by sequencing using oligonucleotide primers as described above.

Example 12: Expression of pMRP160_{ex} in Chinese hamster ovary cells

12.1 Transfection of CHO cells with pMRP160_{ex} and selection of transfected clones

The plasmid pMRP160_{ex} is expressed in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells of line DUKXB1, a mutant lacking the enzyme dihydrofolate reductase (G. Urlaub et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77, 4216, 1980). The cells are cultured in α -MEM (minimum essential medium) containing nucleosides and 5% fetal calf serum (all from Gibco). Cells are plated at a density of 10⁴/cm² in 6-well plates (3.4 cm² diameter; Nunc) and are cotransfected with 4 μ g DNA of plasmid pSV2-neo (P. Southern and P. Berg 1, 327, 1982) following standard procedures as described in detail in US Patent 4, 399, 216, by R.J. Kaufman and P.A. Sharp (J. Mol. Biol. 159, 601, 1982) and by Asselbergs et al. (J. Mol. Biol. 189, 401, 1986). In a second experiment, 0.4 μ g DNA of the plasmid pND2 (DHFR) is cotransfected with 0.4 μ g DNA of pMRP160_{ex} and 0.4 μ g of pSV2-neo (Asselbergs et al., loc. cit.).

48 hrs later, the transfected cells are trypsinized and transferred to three Petri dishes (8.0 cm² in diameter, Nunc). The next day, the non-selective medium is replaced by selective medium (α -MEM without nucleosides containing 5% (v/v) dialyzed fetal calf serum and 1.0 mg/ml geneticin [Gibco]).

After two weeks, 18 geneticin resistant clones are isolated and examined for the expression of MRP-160 with a single cell assay using the affinity purified rabbit anti-rMRP-70 antibodies of Example 14.2 following established protocols (Suter et al., Cancer Immunol. Immunother. 16, 53, 1983). Four clones stain selectively with the anti-rMRP-70 IgG. They are designated 1B8, 2A2, 2B1 and 2B3. Of these clones, 2A2, 2B1 and 2B3 have been cotransfected with the plasmid pND2.

Immunoblotting (H. Towbin et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76, Laemmli, Nature 227, 680, 1970), the rabbit anti-rMRP-70 antibodies react with molecular weight species of 120 and 140 kD.

12.2 Selection of clones expressing amplified MRP-160 sequences with methotrexate

A subconfluent culture of CHO clone 2B1 is pretreated with 20 nM methotrexate (MTX, Sigma) for 24 hrs and then split 1:20 into Petri dishes of 8 cm diameter (Nunc). The cells are propagated in the selective medium α -MEM without nucleosides supplemented with 5% dialyzed fetal calf serum and 0.05 mg/ml gentamycin (all from Gibco) (R. Kaufman and P.A. Sharp, loc. cit.). The selection is initiated after 24 hrs by adding 20 nM MTX to the Petri dish. After 14 days, the resistant colonies are pooled and cloned by limiting

dilution into 96-well plates (Falcon) in selection medium containing 50 nM MTX. Of 16 clones isolated, three are strongly positive with the rabbit anti-rMRP-70 antibodies. The clone designated 2B1-B4 is recloned by limiting dilution in selection medium containing 100 nM MTX. 8 resistant clones are selected, all of which react with rabbit anti-rMRP-70. The clones designated 2B1-B4C2 and 2B1-B4E3 are subjected to stepwise increments of MTX concentration up to 500 nM.

12.3 MRP-160 levels in cellular lysates and culture supernatants of the amplified CHO clones

For the quantitative determination of rMRP-70 and MRP-160 in cellular lysates and culture supernatants of the amplified CHO clones 2B1-B4C2 and 2B1-B4E3, a two-site enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is performed.

12.3.1 Preparation of cellular lysates and culture supernatants

For production of culture supernatant, the CHO clones 2B1, 2B1-B4C2, 2B1-B4E3 and the CHO mock transfected clone 3AB (Example 12.1) are grown to subconfluency and incubated with α -MEM supplemented with 5% dialyzed fetal calf serum for 48-72 hrs. The clones 2B1-B4C2 and 2B1-B4E3 received in addition 200 nM MTX. After harvesting, the supernatants are centrifuged at 2,000 g for 15 min, then at 12,000 g for 15 min and stored at -80°C .

The preparation of cell lysates is performed following standard protocols. Briefly, the trypsinized cells ($2 \times 10^7/\text{ml}$) are treated with lysis buffer (100 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS [all Biorad], 1.0% Nonidet P40 [Shell], 1.0 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride [Boehringer Mannheim], pH 7.5; R.J. Kaufman and P.A. Sharp, loc.cit.) for 15 min on ice. After spinning down the cellular debris at 2,000 g for 15 min, the supernatant is centrifuged at 12,000 g for 15 min and stored at -80°C . The total protein concentration is determined according to the method of Lowry et al. (J. Biol. Chem. 193, 265, 1951).

12.3.2 Two-site ELISA

Aliquots of the cellular lysates and culture supernatants of the mock transfectant 3AB, of the parental transfectant 2B1 and of the MTX treated clones 2B1-B4C2 and 2B1-B4E3 are tested for their concentration of rMRP-70 and MRP-160 with the two-site enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) described in the following. The ELISA is performed using the affinity purified rabbit anti-rMRP-70 antibodies of Example 14.2 following standard protocols (E. Engvall and P. Perlman, Immunochem. 8, 871, 1971; J. Brueggen et al., Cancer Immunol. Immunother. 15, 200, 1983). Rabbit anti-rMRP-70 IgG (1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) in 0.05 M carbonate buffer pH 9.6 is coated at 100 $\mu\text{l}/\text{well}$ into 96-well plates (Nunc FI) and incubated overnight at 4°C . After blocking the nonspecific sites with Tris buffered saline (TBS, 0.05 M, pH 7.4) containing 0.2% gelatin (Biorad), 1.0% bovine serum albumin (Serva) and 0.05% Tween $^{\circ}$ 20 (Biorad) for 1 hr at room temperature, the test samples (50 μl), recombinant rMRP-70 standards (1.9 - 250 ng/ml, see Example 9) and controls diluted in blocking buffer are added for 1 hr at 37°C . The plates are washed (Skatron Microwash II) with TBS containing biotinylated anti-rMRP-70 IgG (50 μl , 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$; biotinylation according to a modified protocol of Lerner et al., J. Exp. Med. 152, 1085, 1980) for 30 min at 37°C . After washing, 50 μl of streptavidin alkaline phosphatase conjugate (Gibco BRL) is added for 30 min at 37°C . The bound enzyme is incubated with 100 μl of p-nitrophenyl phosphate (1.0 mg/ml in diethanolamine buffer 1 M, pH 9.8; Sigma) for 30 min at ambient temperature, and then stopped with 0.5 N HCl. The absorbances are read at 405 nm (Multiscan MCC, Flow). The data are reduced using a 4-parameter logistic curve fitting program (Flow).

The results of the ELISA are summarized in Table 5 below.

Table 5

| rMRP-70 and MRP-160 levels in cellular lysates and supernatants of the transfected CHO cells ^a | | |
|---|---|---|
| cell line | cell lysate ^b (ng MRP-70/mg protein) | culture supernatant ^c (ng MRP-70/ml/10 ⁶ cells) |
| 2B1 (parental cell) | 23.0 | 0.0 |
| 2B1-B4C2 (MTX-treated) | 1250.0 | 56.0 |
| 2B1-B4E3 (MTX-treated) | 892.0 | 66.0 |
| 3AB (mock control) | 0.0 | 0.0 |

^a two site ELISA; rabbit anti-rMRP-70 versus biotinylated rabbit anti-rMRP-70; values are in ng/ml, based on the recombinant rMRP-70 standard; the limit of detection is 1.0 ng/ml

^b related on mg of total cellular protein

^c supernatants are harvested after 72 hrs starting with subconfluent cell cultures

The MTX treated clones express intracellularly approximately 50 times more of rMRP-70 related protein than the parental cell 2B1. The supernatants of the MTX clones contain 50-60 ng/ml/10⁶ cells of immunoreactive protein, whereas the parental cell 2B1 is negative.

Example 13: Induction of inflammatory reaction in the skin of guinea pigs

MRP-160 is tested for the ability to induce skin reactions in a test using normal guinea pigs.

Normal guinea pigs are shaved, anaesthetized and injected intradermally with 100 μ l each of the supernatant of several MRP-160 amplified CHO cell lines. The skin reaction is determined after 24 hrs and 48 hrs. Positive reactions result in a significant reddening in an area of about 5-12 mm in diameter. Several MRP-160 amplified CHO cell lines are found to induce skin reactions whereas neither control cells cultured and injected under identical conditions nor the culture medium itself produced any effect.

Example 14: Preparation of polyclonal antibodies

14.1 Preparation of rabbit anti-rMRP-70 serum

0.5 mg rMRP-70 (prepared as described in Examples 8 and 9) in complete Freund's adjuvant (Gibco) are injected into rabbits followed by a booster injection of 0.5 mg rMRP-70 in incomplete Freund's adjuvant (Gibco) after 20 days. The titer of the rabbit serum is monitored by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) in microtiter plates coated with rMRP-70 following established protocols (E. Engvall and P. Perlman, Immunochem. 8, 871 1971). Examination of Western blots reveals that, after exhaustive adsorption with lysates of untransfected *E. coli* cells, the only reactivity left in the serum is directed against rMRP-70.

14.2 Isolation of polyclonal rabbit antibodies specific for rMRP-70 by immunoaffinity chromatography

An rMRP-70-Affigel 10 immunoabsorbent column is prepared by coupling of 4-5 mg of purified rMRP-70 to 1 ml of Affigel® 10 using the manufacturer's procedure (Bio-Rad). Immunoglobulin G (IgG) from the monospecific rabbit anti-rMRP-70 serum of Example 14.1 is precipitated by ammonium sulfate at 50% saturation. The precipitate is dissolved in PBS and dialysed against PBS. 15 ml of the dialysed solution containing approximately 100 mg of IgG is pumped through the immunoaffinity column at a flow rate of 10-12 ml/hr. Unspecifically bound material is removed by washing the column with PBS/0.4 M sodium chloride. Specifically bound IgG is eluted with 0.1 M glycine hydrochloride pH 2.5. Fractions containing the antibodies are pooled, neutralized by adding 1 M Tris and dialysed against PBS. Approximately 4 mg of IgG specific for rMRP-70 are obtained.

14.3 Preparation of oligopeptides representing fragments of MRP-160

The following oligopeptides are synthesized by stepwise solid phase peptide synthesis with 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc) protected amino acids as their preformed 1-hydroxybenzotriazole esters in N-methylpyrrolidone using the method described in H. Rink et al., Peptides: Chemistry, Structure and Biology (Ed. J.E. Rivier and G.R. Marshall), ESCOM, Leiden 1990, p. 1041.

MRP-160 fragment 1: Glu-Glu-Glu-Arg-Ser-Val-Leu-Asn-Asn-Gln-Leu-Leu-Glu-Met-Met-Lys-Lys corresponding to amino acids 1189-1204 of SEQ ID NO:1

MRP-160 fragment 2: Arg-Asn-Glu-Val-Thr-Val-Leu-Arg-Gly-Glu-Asn-Ala-Ser-Ala corresponding to amino acids 1242-1255 of SEQ ID NO:1

MRP-160 fragment 3: Glu-Ile-Cys-Glu-Met-Phe-Gly-His-Trp-Ala-Thr-Asn-Cys-Asn-Asp-Asp-Glu-Thr-Phe corresponding to amino acids 1409-1427 of SEQ ID NO:1

MRP-160 fragment 4: Ser-Thr-Pro-Ser-Asn-Ile-Pro-Gln-Lys-Pro-Ser-Gln-Pro-Ala-Ala-Lys corresponding to amino acids 162-177 of SEQ ID NO: 1

14.4 Rabbit antisera directed against MRP-160 fragments 1,2,3 and 4

0.5 mg of each of the four oligopeptides of Example 14.3 in complete Freund's adjuvant (Gibco) are injected into four different rabbits followed by a booster injection in incomplete Freund's adjuvant (Gibco) after 20 days. The titer of the rabbit sera is monitored by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) in microtiter plates (Nunc) coated with the respective peptides as in Example 14.1. Immunoglobulin G (IgG) is precipitated from the sera with 50 % ammonium sulfate.

An Affigel 10 immunoabsorbent column is prepared by coupling 4-5 mg of the respective MRP-160 fragment 1,2,3 and 4 to 1 ml of Affigel® 10 using the manufacturer's procedure (BioRad). The four precipitates of IgG are dissolved each in PBS and dialysed against PBS. 15 ml of the dialysed solutions of the respective anti-MRP-160 fragment IgG precipitates containing approximately 100 mg of IgG are pumped through the immunoaffinity column at a flow rate of 10-12 ml/hr. IgG is eluted as described in Example 14.2. Approximately 4 mg of IgG specific for the respective MRP-160 fragment 1,2,3 and 4 are obtained.

Example 15: Preparation of hybridoma cells producing monoclonal antibodies against rMRP-70

15.1 Immunization protocol

Three female Balb/c mice are injected each intraperitoneally with 0.1 mg of rMRP-70 in complete Freund's adjuvant (Gibco) followed by two booster injections of 0.05 mg rMRP-70 in incomplete Freund's adjuvant (Gibco) at 14 days interval. After 6 weeks, 0.05 mg of rMRP-70 in physiological saline are injected, and the mice are sacrificed 4 days later.

15.2 Cell fusion and selection of hybridomas

All fusions are performed following established protocols (G. Köhler and C. Milstein, Nature 256 , 495, 1976) using the non-secreting myeloma cell line P3x63Ag8.653 (ATCC No. CRL 1580). 10^8 spleen cells are fused with 10^7 myeloma cells in the presence of 35% (w/v) polyethylene glycol (PEG 4000, Merck) and of 15% dimethyl sulfoxide (Merck). The fusion mixture is distributed in standard HAT selection medium supplemented with 20% FCS (Gibco) in 1200 wells of microtiter plates (Falcon) containing mouse peritoneal exudate cells as feeder cells. After 10-14 days, the supernatants of growing hybridomas are tested for binding of rMRP-70 with a sandwich ELISA (Example 16). Positive hybridomas are recloned by limiting dilution at least two times.

15.3 Expansion of hybridomas and isolation and purification of monoclonal antibodies specific for rMRP-70

Balb/c mice 8-10 weeks of age are pre-treated intraperitoneally (i.p.) with 0.3 ml pristane (Aldrich). 2-3 weeks later, $5-10 \times 10^6$ cloned hybridoma cells and 0.2 ml pristane are injected i.p.. After 8-10 days ascites

fluid is collected, centrifuged at 800 g and stored at -80°C .

Alternatively, the hybridomas are propagated in vitro at a large scale using hybridoma medium (Gibco). The supernatant is centrifuged at 800 g, filtered with a $0.45\ \mu\text{m}$ Nalgene® filter and stored at -80°C .

Crude immunoglobulin is precipitated by dropwise addition of 0.9 volume equivalents of saturated ammonium sulfate at 0°C , then dissolved in 20 mM Tris-HCl, 50 mM NaCl, pH 7.9. An IgG fraction is obtained by using the Affigel® Protein A MAPS Kit procedure of Bio-Rad. The eluted IgG fraction is precipitated again with ammonium sulfate and dissolved in PBS at a concentration of 10 mg/ml and dialysed against the same buffer.

Example 16: Enzyme immunoassay for detection of MRP-160, rMRP-70 or MRP-160 fragments

16.1 xBiotinylation of polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies

1 mg of polyclonal rabbit anti-rMRP-70 or anti-MRP-160 fragment 1,2,3 or 4 antibody of Example 14 or monoclonal anti-rMRP-70 antibody of Example 15 and 0.1 mg Biotin-X-NHS® (Calbiochem) are reacted in 1.0 ml of 0.1 M Hepes buffer pH 8.0 for 4 hrs at 4°C according to the procedure suggested by the manufacturer. The biotinylated antibodies are dialysed at 4°C against PBS and stored at -80°C .

16.2 Sandwich ELISA

MRP-160, rMRP-70 and MRP-160 fragments are detected by a two-site sandwich ELISA described in Example 12.3.2.

The assay detects rMRP-70 in transformed cells or MRP-160 in cellular lysates of human monocytes, in transformed cells and in body fluids of human patients down to 1.0 ng/ml.

16.3 Test kit for sandwich ELISA

A test kit for the sandwich ELISA of Example 16.2 contains for example:

- microtiter plates (Nunc FI)
- 20 ml of affinity purified polyclonal anti-rMRP-70 rabbit antibodies ($1\ \mu\text{g/ml}$) in 0.05 M carbonate buffer pH 9.6
- 1.0 ml of recombinant rMRP-70 standard solution ($1\ \text{mg/ml}$) in TBS containing 0.05% Tween 20
- 10 ml of biotinylated polyclonal rabbit anti-rMRP-70 antibodies ($0.5\ \mu\text{g/ml}$) in TBS pH 7.4, 0.2% gelatin, 1% BSA, 0.05% Tween 20
- 10 ml streptavidin-alkaline phosphatase (BRL) 1:5000 in TBS pH 7.4, 0.2% gelatin, 1% BSA, 0.05% Tween 20
- 200 ml TBS, 0.05% Tween 20
- 200 ml TBS pH 7.4, 0.2% gelatin, 1% BSA, 0.05% Tween 20
- 20 ml p-nitrophenyl phosphate ($1.0\ \text{mg/ml}$) in diethanolamine buffer (1M, pH 9.8)
- calibration curve
- instruction manual.

Example 17: Detection of Hodgkin lymphoma by immunostaining

Lymph node biopsies, skin biopsies or other tissue biopsies are quickly frozen in isopentane cooled by liquid nitrogen and stored at -75°C . $5\ \mu\text{m}$ tissue sections are cut, fixed for 15 min in acetone and dried overnight at room temperature. The sections are rehydrated in PBS for 10 min, then incubated in a 1:100 dilution of anti-rMRP-70 rabbit polyclonal antibody of Example 14.2 for 30 min, rinsed in PBS for 10 min, then incubated in a 1:400 dilution of biotinylated mouse anti-rabbit monoclonal antibody (Dakopatts, Copenhagen, Denmark) for 30 min. The sections are rinsed in PBS for 10 min and treated with the ABCComplex™ (avidin complexed with biotinylated peroxidase, Dakopatts) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. The reaction product is developed with the chromogenic substrate AEC/hydrogen peroxide (50 mg aminoethylcarbazole, 33 μl 30 % H_2O_2 , 5 ml dimethylformamide, 100 ml acetate buffer

0.05 M, pH 6.9). The sections are rinsed in acetate buffer for 5 min, counterstained with Mayer's hematoxylin, mounted with glycerin jelly and inspected with a microscope.

The results obtained with biopsy material from different sources are collected in Table 6. Immunostaining using anti-rMRP-70 antisera is clearly restricted to Hodgkin's disease and the related anaplastic large cell lymphomas.

Table 6

| Immunostaining of Hodgkin lymphoma and other tissue sections | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Tissue source and diagnosis | No. of cases | No. of anti-MRP-70 staining |
| lymph node Hodgkin's disease | 36 | 31 |
| lymph node anaplastic large cell lymphomas (Ki-1 positive) | 4 | 4 |
| lymph node other non-Hodgkin lymphomas | 10 | 0 |
| lymph node non-specific lymphadenitis | 4 | 0 |
| skin inflammatory conditions | 4 | 0 |
| adenocarcinoma | 2 | 0 |
| epidermoid carcinoma | 1 | 0 |
| soft tissue sarcoma | 3 | 0 |

Example 18: Pharmaceutical composition for parenteral application

200 µg of rMRP-70 or of MRP-160 are dissolved in 3 ml of 5 N human serum albumin. The resulting solution is passed through a bacteriological filter and the filtered solution subdivided under aseptic conditions into 10 vials. The vials are preferably stored in the cold, for example at -20° C.

Likewise pharmaceutical compositions containing 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg and 5 mg of polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies of Examples 14 and 15 in 3 ml of 5 N human serum albumin are prepared. Pharmaceutical compositions of higher concentration are obtained by dissolving 10 mg of monoclonal antibody directed to rMRP-70 (Example 15) in 2 ml of sterilized physiological saline.

Sequence Listing

SEQ ID NO: 1

SEQUENCE TYPE: Nucleotide with corresponding protein

SEQUENCE LENGTH: 5858 base pairs/1427 amino acids

ORIGINAL SOURCE ORGANISM: human

IMMEDIATE EXPERIMENTAL SOURCE: cDNA libraries in λ gt11

PROPERTIES: inflammation and Hodgkin's lymphoma marker

5
 10
 15
 20
 25
 30
 35
 40
 45
 50
 55

GCGGCGCAGG CGGCGGCGTC CGAGGAGATT TAATCCAGAG ACTGACTTCA 50
 CTATAGAACC CACAGTTGTA TCAATGGTTG GGGAAAGATA GTGGCAACAG 100
 GCAAAGGAGA AACAGCTCTG ACATACAAAG AAA ATG AGT ATG CTA 145
 Met Ser Met Leu
 1
 AAG CCA AGT GGG CTT AAG GCC CCC ACC AAG ATC CTG AAG CCT 187
 Lys Pro Ser Gly Leu Lys Ala Pro Thr Lys Ile Leu Lys Pro
 5 10 15
 GGA AGC ACA GCT CTG AAG ACA CCT ACG GCT GTT GTA GCT CCA 229
 Gly Ser Thr Ala Leu Lys Thr Pro Thr Ala Val Val Ala Pro
 20 25 30
 GTA GAA AAA ACC ATA TCC AGT GAA AAA GCA TCA AGC ACT CCA 271
 Val Glu Lys Thr Ile Ser Ser Glu Lys Ala Ser Ser Thr Pro
 35 40 45
 TCA TCT GAG ACT CAG GAG GAA TTT GTG GAT GAC TTT CGA GTT 313
 Ser Ser Glu Thr Gln Glu Glu Phe Val Asp Asp Phe Arg Val
 50 55 60
 GGG GAG CGA GTT TGG GTG AAT GGA AAT AAG CCT GGA TTT ATC 355
 Gly Glu Arg Val Trp Val Asn Gly Asn Lys Pro Gly Phe Ile
 65 70
 CAG TTT CTT GGA GAA ACC CAG TTT GCA CCA GGC CAG TGG GCT 397
 Gln Phe Leu Gly Glu Thr Gln Phe Ala Pro Gly Gln Trp Ala
 75 80 85
 GGA ATT GTT TTA GAT GAA CCC ATA GGC AAG AAC GAT GGT TCG 439
 Gly Ile Val Leu Asp Glu Pro Ile Gly Lys Asn Asp Gly Ser
 90 95 100

SEQ ID NO: 1 continued

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 5 | GTG | GCA | GGA | GTT | CGG | TAT | TTC | CAG | TGT | GAA | CCT | TTA | AAG | GGC | 481 |
| | Val | Ala | Gly | Val | Arg | Tyr | Phe | Gln | Cys | Glu | Pro | Leu | Lys | Gly | |
| | | | 105 | | | | | 110 | | | | | 115 | | |
| 10 | ATA | TTT | ACC | CGA | CCT | TCA | AAG | TTA | ACA | AGG | AAG | GTG | CAA | GCA | 523 |
| | Ile | Phe | Thr | Arg | Pro | Ser | Lys | Leu | Thr | Arg | Lys | Val | Gln | Ala | |
| | | | | 120 | | | | | 125 | | | | | 130 | |
| 15 | GAA | GAT | GAA | GCT | AAT | GGC | CTG | CAG | ACA | ACG | CCC | GCC | TCC | CGA | 565 |
| | Glu | Asp | Glu | Ala | Asn | Gly | Leu | Gln | Thr | Thr | Pro | Ala | Ser | Arg | |
| | | | | | 135 | | | | | 140 | | | | | |
| 20 | GCT | ACT | TCA | CCG | CTG | TGC | ACT | TCT | ACG | GCC | AGC | ATG | GTG | TCT | 607 |
| | Ala | Thr | Ser | Pro | Leu | Cys | Thr | Ser | Thr | Ala | Ser | Met | Val | Ser | |
| | 145 | | | | | 150 | | | | | 155 | | | | |
| 25 | TCC | TCC | CCC | TCC | ACC | CCT | TCA | AAC | ATC | CCT | CAG | AAA | CCA | TCA | 649 |
| | Ser | Ser | Pro | Ser | Thr | Pro | Ser | Asn | Ile | Pro | Gln | Lys | Pro | Ser | |
| | | | 160 | | | | 165 | | | | | 170 | | | |
| 30 | CAG | CCA | GCA | GCA | AAG | GAA | CCT | TCA | GCT | ACG | CCT | CCG | ATC | AGC | 691 |
| | Gln | Pro | Ala | Ala | Lys | Glu | Pro | Ser | Ala | Thr | Pro | Pro | Ile | Ser | |
| | | | 175 | | | | | 180 | | | | | 185 | | |
| 35 | AAC | CTT | ACA | AAA | ACT | GCC | AGT | GAA | TCT | ATC | TCC | AAC | CTT | TCA | 733 |
| | Asn | Leu | Thr | Lys | Thr | Ala | Ser | Glu | Ser | Ile | Ser | Asn | Leu | Ser | |
| | | | | 190 | | | | | 195 | | | | | 200 | |
| 40 | GAG | GCT | GGC | TCA | ATC | AAG | AAA | GGA | GAA | AGA | GAG | CTC | AAA | ATC | 775 |
| | Glu | Ala | Gly | Ser | Ile | Lys | Lys | Gly | Glu | Arg | Glu | Leu | Lys | Ile | |
| | | | | | 205 | | | | | 210 | | | | | |
| 45 | GGA | GAC | AGA | GTA | TTG | GTT | GGT | GGC | ACT | AAG | GCT | GGT | GTA | GTC | 817 |
| | Gly | Asp | Arg | Val | Leu | Val | Gly | Gly | Thr | Lys | Ala | Gly | Val | Val | |
| | 215 | | | | | 220 | | | | | 225 | | | | |
| 50 | CGG | TTT | CTT | GGG | GAG | ACC | GAC | TTT | GCC | AAG | GGG | GAG | TGG | TGT | 859 |
| | Arg | Phe | Leu | Gly | Glu | Thr | Asp | Phe | Ala | Lys | Gly | Glu | Trp | Cys | |
| | | 230 | | | | | 235 | | | | | 240 | | | |
| 55 | GGC | GTG | GAG | TTA | GAT | GAG | CCA | CTT | GGG | AAG | AAT | GAT | GGC | GCT | 901 |
| | Gly | Val | Glu | Leu | Asp | Glu | Pro | Leu | Gly | Lys | Asn | Asp | Gly | Ala | |
| | | | 245 | | | | | 250 | | | | | 255 | | |
| 60 | GTT | GCT | GGA | ACA | AGG | TAT | TTT | CAG | TGT | CAA | CCC | AAA | TAT | GGC | 943 |
| | Val | Ala | Gly | Thr | Arg | Tyr | Phe | Gln | Cys | Gln | Pro | Lys | Tyr | Gly | |
| | | | | 260 | | | | | 265 | | | | | 270 | |
| 65 | TTG | TTC | GCT | CCT | GTC | CAC | AAA | GTT | ACC | AAG | ATT | GGC | TTC | CCT | 985 |
| | Leu | Phe | Ala | Pro | Val | His | Lys | Val | Thr | Lys | Ile | Gly | Phe | Pro | |
| | | | | | 275 | | | | | 280 | | | | | |

SEQ ID NO: 1 continued

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------|
| 5 | TCC Ser 285 | ACT Thr | ACA Thr | CCA Pro | GCC Ala | AAA Lys 290 | GCC Ala | AAG Lys | GCC Ala | AAC Asn | GCA Ala 295 | GTG Val | AGG Arg | CGA Arg | 1027 |
| 10 | GTG Val 300 | ATG Met | GCG Ala | ACC Thr | ACG Thr | TCC Ser | GCC Ala 305 | AGC Ser | CTG Leu | AAG Lys | CGC Arg | AGC Ser 310 | CCT Pro | TCT Ser | 1069 |
| 15 | GCC Ala | TCT Ser | TCC Ser 315 | CTC Leu | AGC Ser | TCC Ser | ATG Met 320 | AGC Ser | TCA Ala | GTG Ser | GCC Ser | TCC Val | TCT Ser 325 | GTG Ser | 1111 |
| 20 | AGC Ser | AGC Val | AGG Arg 330 | CCC Pro | AGT Ser | CGG Arg | ACA Thr | GGA Gly 335 | CTA Leu | TTG Leu | ACT Thr | GAA Glu | ACC Thr | TCC Ser 340 | 1153 |
| 25 | TCC Ser | CGT Arg | TAC Tyr | GCC Ala 345 | AGG Arg | AAG Lys | ATC Ile | TCC Ser | GGT Gly 350 | ACC Thr | ACT Thr | GCC Ala | CTC Leu | CAG Gln | 1195 |
| 30 | GAG Glu 355 | GCC Ala | CTG Leu | AAG Lys | GAG Glu | AAG Lys 360 | CAG Gln | CAG Gln | CAC His | ATT Ile | GAG Glu 365 | CAG Gln | CTG Leu | CTG Leu | 1237 |
| 35 | GCG Ala 370 | GAA Glu | CGG Arg | GAT Asp | CTG Leu | GAG Glu 375 | AGG Arg | GCG Ala | GAG Glu | GTG Val | GCC Ala 380 | AAG Lys | GCC Ala | ACG Thr | 1279 |
| 40 | AGC Ser | CAC His 385 | GTG Val | GGG Gly | GAG Glu | ATA Ile | GAG Glu 390 | CAG Gln | GAG Glu | CTA Leu | GCT Ala | CTG Leu | GCC Ala 395 | CGG Arg | 1321 |
| 45 | GAC Asp | GGA Gly | CAT His 400 | GAC Asp | CAG Gln | CAT His | GTC Val | CTG Leu | GAA Glu 405 | TTG Leu | GAA Glu | GCC Ala | AAA Lys | ATG Met 410 | 1363 |
| 50 | GAC Asp 415 | CAG Gln | CTG Leu | CGA Arg | ACA Thr 415 | ATG Met | GTG Val | GAA Glu | GCT Ala 420 | GCT Ala | GAC Asp | AGG Arg | GAG Glu | AAG Lys | 1405 |
| 55 | GTG Val 425 | GAG Glu | CTT Leu | CTC Leu | AAC Asn | CAG Gln 430 | CTT Leu | GAA Glu | GAG Glu | GAG Glu | AAA Lys 435 | AGG Arg | AAG Lys | GTT Val | 1447 |
| 60 | GAG Glu 440 | GAC Asp | CTT Leu | CAG Gln | TTC Phe | CGG Arg 445 | GTT Val | GAA Glu | GAA Glu | GAA Glu | TCA Ser | ATT Ile 450 | ACC Thr | AAA Lys | 1489 |
| 65 | GGT Gly | GAT Asp | CTT Leu 455 | GAG Glu | ACG Thr | CAG Gln | ACC Thr 460 | AAA Lys | CTG Leu | GAG Glu | CAT His | GCC Ala | CGC Arg 465 | ATT Ile | 1531 |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 5 | AAG | GAG | CTT | GAA | CAG | AGC | CTG | CTC | TTT | GAA | AAG | ACC | AAA | GCT | 1573 |
| | Lys | Glu | Leu | Glu | Gln | Ser | Leu | Leu | Phe | Glu | Lys | Thr | Lys | Ala | |
| | | | | 470 | | | | | 475 | | | | | 480 | |
| 10 | GAC | AAA | CTC | CAG | AGG | GAG | TTA | GAA | GAC | ACT | AGG | GTG | GCT | ACA | 1615 |
| | Asp | Lys | Leu | Gln | Arg | Glu | Leu | Glu | Asp | Thr | Arg | Val | Ala | Thr | |
| | | | | 485 | | | | | 490 | | | | | | |
| 15 | GTT | TCA | GAA | AAG | TCA | CGT | ATA | ATG | GAA | CTG | GAG | AAA | GAC | CTA | 1657 |
| | Val | Ser | Glu | Lys | Ser | Arg | Ile | Met | Glu | Leu | Glu | Lys | Asp | Leu | |
| | 495 | | | | | 500 | | | | | 505 | | | | |
| 20 | GCA | TTG | AGA | GTA | CAG | GAA | GTA | GCT | GAG | CTC | CGA | AGA | AGG | CTA | 1699 |
| | Ala | Leu | Arg | Val | Gln | Glu | Val | Ala | Glu | Leu | Arg | Arg | Arg | Leu | |
| | 510 | | | | | | 515 | | | | | 520 | | | |
| 25 | GAG | TCC | AAT | AAG | CCT | GCT | GGG | GAT | GTG | GAC | ATG | TCA | CTT | TCC | 1741 |
| | Glu | Ser | Asn | Lys | Pro | Ala | Gly | Asp | Val | Asp | Met | Ser | Leu | Ser | |
| | | | 525 | | | | | 530 | | | | | 535 | | |
| 30 | CTT | TTG | CAA | GAG | ATA | AGC | TCT | TTG | CAA | GAA | AAG | TTA | GAA | GTC | 1783 |
| | Leu | Leu | Gln | Glu | Ile | Ser | Ser | Leu | Gln | Glu | Lys | Leu | Glu | Val | |
| | | | | 540 | | | | | 545 | | | | | 550 | |
| 35 | ACC | CGT | ACT | GAC | CAC | CAG | AGA | GAA | ATA | ACT | TCT | CTG | AAG | GAG | 1825 |
| | Thr | Arg | Thr | Asp | His | Gln | Arg | Glu | Ile | Thr | Ser | Leu | Lys | Glu | |
| | | | | | 555 | | | | | 560 | | | | | |
| 40 | CAT | TTT | GGA | GCC | CGG | GAA | GAA | ACT | CAT | CAG | AAG | GAG | ATA | AAG | 1867 |
| | His | Phe | Gly | Ala | Arg | Glu | Glu | Thr | His | Gln | Lys | Glu | Ile | Lys | |
| | 565 | | | | | 570 | | | | | 575 | | | | |
| 45 | GCT | CTG | TAT | ACC | GCC | ACG | GAA | AAG | CTT | TCC | AAA | GAG | AAC | GAG | 1909 |
| | Ala | Leu | Tyr | Thr | Ala | Thr | Glu | Lys | Leu | Ser | Lys | Glu | Asn | Glu | |
| | 580 | | | | | | 585 | | | | | 590 | | | |
| 50 | TCA | TTG | AAA | AGC | AAG | CTG | GAG | CAT | GCC | AAC | AAA | GAG | AAC | TCA | 1951 |
| | Ser | Leu | Lys | Ser | Lys | Leu | Glu | His | Ala | Asn | Lys | Glu | Asn | Ser | |
| | | | 595 | | | | | 600 | | | | | 605 | | |
| 55 | GAT | GTG | ATA | GCT | CTA | TGG | AAG | TCC | AAA | CTG | GAG | ACT | GCC | ATC | 1993 |
| | Asp | Val | Ile | Ala | Leu | Trp | Lys | Ser | Lys | Leu | Glu | Thr | Ala | Ile | |
| | | | | 610 | | | | | 615 | | | | | 620 | |
| 60 | GCA | TCC | CAC | CAG | CAG | GCG | ATG | GAA | GAA | CTG | AAG | GTA | TCT | TTC | 2035 |
| | Ala | Ser | His | Gln | Gln | Ala | Met | Glu | Glu | Leu | Lys | Val | Ser | Phe | |
| | | | | | 625 | | | | | 630 | | | | | |
| 65 | AGC | AAA | GGG | CTT | GGA | ACA | GAG | ACG | GCA | GAA | TTT | GCT | GAA | CTA | 2077 |
| | Ser | Lys | Gly | Leu | Gly | Thr | Glu | Thr | Ala | Glu | Phe | Ala | Glu | Leu | |
| | 635 | | | | | 640 | | | | | 645 | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| 5 | AAA Lys | ACA Thr | CAA Gln | ATA Ile | GAG Glu | AAA Lys | ATG Met | AGA Arg | CTA Leu | GAT Asp | TAC Tyr | CAA Gln | CAC His | GAA Glu | 2119 |
| | | 650 | | | | | 655 | | | | | 660 | | | |
| 10 | ATA Ile | GAA Glu | AAT Asn | TTG Leu | CAG Gln | AAT Asn | CAA Gln | CAA Gln | GAC Asp | TCT Ser | GAA Glu | CGG Arg | GCT Ala | GCC Ala | 2161 |
| | | | 665 | | | | | 670 | | | | | 675 | | |
| 15 | CAT His | GCT Ala | AAA Lys | GAG Glu | ATG Met | GAA Glu | GCC Ala | TTG Leu | AGG Arg | GCT Ala | AAA Lys | CTG Leu | ATG Met | AAA Lys | 2203 |
| | | | 680 | | | | | 685 | | | | | | 690 | |
| 20 | GTT Val | ATT Ile | AAA Lys | GAA Glu | AAG Lys | GAA Glu | AAC Asn | AGT Ser | CTG Leu | GAA Glu | GCC Arg | ATC Ser | AGG Lys | TCG Leu | 2245 |
| | | | | | 695 | | | | 700 | | | | | | |
| 25 | AAA Ala | CTG Ile | GAC Asp | AAA Lys | GCA Ala | GAA Glu | GAC Asp | CAG Gln | CAT His | CTC Leu | GTA Val | GAA Glu | ATG Met | GAA Glu | 2287 |
| | 705 | | | | | 710 | | | | | 715 | | | | |
| 30 | GAC Asp | ACG Thr | TTA Leu | AAC Asn | AAA Lys | TTA Leu | CAG Gln | GAA Glu | GCT Ala | GAA Glu | ATA Ile | AAG Lys | GTA Val | AAG Lys | 2329 |
| | | 720 | | | | | 725 | | | | | 730 | | | |
| 35 | GAG Glu | CTA Leu | GAG Glu | GTA Val | CTG Leu | CAA Gln | GCC Ala | AAA Lys | TGC Cys | AAT Asn | GAA Glu | CAA Gln | ACC Thr | AAG Lys | 2371 |
| | | | 735 | | | | | 740 | | | | | 745 | | |
| 40 | GTT Val | ATT Ile | GAT Asp | AAT Asn | TTT Phe | ACA Thr | TCA Ser | CAG Gln | CTC Leu | AAG Lys | GCT Ala | ACT Thr | GAA Glu | GAA Glu | 2413 |
| | | | | 750 | | | | | 755 | | | | | 760 | |
| 45 | AAG Lys | CTC Leu | TTG Leu | GAT Asp | CTT Leu | GAT Asp | GCA Ala | CTT Leu | CGG Arg | AAA Lys | GCC Ala | AGT Ser | TCC Ser | GAA Glu | 2455 |
| | | | | 765 | | | | | 770 | | | | | | |
| 50 | GGT Gly | AAA Lys | TCG Ser | GAA Glu | ATG Met | AAG Lys | AAA Lys | CTT Leu | AGA Arg | CAG Gln | CAG Gln | CTT Leu | GAG Glu | GCA Ala | 2497 |
| | 775 | | | | | 780 | | | | | 785 | | | | |
| 55 | GCT Ala | GAG Glu | AAA Lys | CAG Gln | ATT Ile | AAA Lys | CAT His | TTA Leu | GAG Glu | ATT Ile | GAA Glu | AAG Lys | AAT Asn | GCT Ala | 2539 |
| | | 790 | | | | | 795 | | | | | 800 | | | |
| 60 | GAA Glu | AGT Ser | AGC Ser | AAG Lys | GCT Ala | AGT Ser | AGC Ser | ATT Ile | ACC Thr | AGA Arg | GAG Glu | CTC Leu | CAG Gln | GGG Gly | 2581 |
| | | | 805 | | | | | 810 | | | | | 815 | | |
| 65 | AGA Arg | GAG Glu | CTA Leu | AAG Lys | CTT Leu | ACT Thr | AAC Asn | CTT Leu | CAG Gln | GAA Glu | AAT Asn | TTG Leu | AGT Ser | GAA Glu | 2623 |
| | | | 820 | | | | | | 825 | | | | | 830 | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|
| 5 | GTC | AGT | CAA | GTG | AAA | GAG | ACT | TTG | GAA | AAA | GAA | CTT | CAG | ATT | 2665 |
| | Val | Ser | Gln | Val | Lys | Glu | Thr | Leu | Glu | Lys | Glu | Leu | Gln | Ile | |
| | | | | | 835 | | | | | 840 | | | | | |
| 10 | TTG | AAA | GAA | AAG | TTT | GCT | GAA | GCT | TCA | GAG | GAG | GCA | GTC | TCT | 2707 |
| | Leu | Lys | Glu | Lys | Phe | Ala | Glu | Ala | Ser | Glu | Glu | Ala | Val | Ser | |
| | 845 | | | | | 850 | | | | | 855 | | | | |
| 15 | GTT | CAG | AGA | AGT | ATG | CAA | GAA | ACT | GTA | AAT | AAG | TTA | CAC | CAA | 2749 |
| | Val | Gln | Arg | Ser | Met | Gln | Glu | Thr | Val | Asn | Lys | Leu | His | Gln | |
| | | 860 | | | | | 865 | | | | | 870 | | | |
| 20 | AAG | GAG | GAA | CAG | TTT | AAC | ATG | CTG | TCT | TCT | GAC | TTG | GAG | AAG | 2791 |
| | Lys | Glu | Glu | Gln | Phe | Asn | Met | Leu | Ser | Ser | Asp | Leu | Glu | Lys | |
| | | | 875 | | | | | 880 | | | | | 885 | | |
| 25 | CTG | AGA | GAA | AAC | TTA | GCA | GAT | ATG | GAG | GCA | AAA | TTT | AGA | GAG | 2833 |
| | Leu | Arg | Glu | Asn | Leu | Ala | Asp | Met | Glu | Ala | Lys | Phe | Arg | Glu | |
| | | | | 890 | | | | | 895 | | | | | 900 | |
| 30 | AAA | GAT | GAG | AGA | GAA | GAG | CAG | CTG | ATA | AAG | GCA | AAG | GAA | AAA | 2875 |
| | Lys | Asp | Glu | Arg | Glu | Glu | Gln | Leu | Ile | Lys | Ala | Lys | Glu | Lys | |
| | | | | | 905 | | | | | 910 | | | | | |
| 35 | CTG | GAA | AAT | GAC | ATT | GCA | GAA | ATA | ATG | AAG | ATG | TCA | GGA | GAT | 2917 |
| | Leu | Glu | Asn | Asp | Ile | Ala | Glu | Ile | Met | Lys | Met | Ser | Gly | Asp | |
| | 915 | | | | | 920 | | | | | 925 | | | | |
| 40 | AAC | TCT | TCT | CAG | CTG | ACA | AAA | ATG | AAC | GAT | GAA | TTA | CGT | CTG | 2959 |
| | Asn | Ser | Ser | Gln | Leu | Thr | Lys | Met | Asn | Asp | Glu | Leu | Arg | Leu | |
| | | 930 | | | | | 935 | | | | | 940 | | | |
| 45 | AAA | GAA | AGA | GAT | GTA | GAA | GAA | TTA | CAG | CTA | AAA | CTT | ACA | AAG | 3001 |
| | Lys | Glu | Arg | Asp | Val | Glu | Glu | Leu | Gln | Leu | Lys | Leu | Thr | Lys | |
| | | | 945 | | | | | 950 | | | | | 955 | | |
| 50 | GCT | AAT | GAA | AAT | GCA | AGT | TTT | CTG | CAA | AAA | AGT | ATT | GAG | GAC | 3043 |
| | Ala | Asn | Glu | Asn | Ala | Ser | Phe | Leu | Gln | Lys | Ser | Ile | Glu | Asp | |
| | | | | 960 | | | | | 965 | | | | | 970 | |
| 55 | ATG | ACT | GTC | AAA | GCT | GAA | CAG | AGC | CAG | CAA | GAA | GCA | GCT | AAA | 3085 |
| | Met | Thr | Val | Lys | Ala | Glu | Gln | Ser | Gln | Gln | Glu | Ala | Ala | Lys | |
| | | | | | 975 | | | | | 980 | | | | | |
| 60 | AAG | CAT | GAG | GAA | GAA | AAG | AAA | GAA | TTG | GAG | AGG | AAA | TTG | TCG | 3127 |
| | Lys | His | Glu | Glu | Glu | Lys | Lys | Glu | Leu | Glu | Arg | Lys | Leu | Ser | |
| | 985 | | | | | 990 | | | | | 995 | | | | |
| 65 | GAC | CTG | GAA | AAG | AAA | ATG | GAA | ACA | AGC | CAC | AAC | CAG | TGT | CAG | 3169 |
| | Asp | Leu | Glu | Lys | Lys | Met | Glu | Thr | Ser | His | Asn | Gln | Cys | Gln | |
| | | 1000 | | | | | 1005 | | | | | 1010 | | | |

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| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 5 | GAG CTG AAA GCC AGG TAT GAG AGA GCC ACT TCT GAG ACA AAA | 3211 |
| | Glu Leu Lys Ala Arg Tyr Glu Arg Ala Thr Ser Glu Thr Lys | |
| | 1015 1020 1025 | |
| 10 | ACC AAG CAT GAA GAA ATC CTA CAG AAC CTC CAG AAG ACG CTG | 3253 |
| | Thr Lys His Glu Glu Ile Leu Gln Asn Leu Gln Lys Thr Leu | |
| | 1030 1035 1040 | |
| 15 | CTG GAC ACA GAG GAC AAG CTG AAG GGC GCA CGG GAG GAG AAC | 3295 |
| | Leu Asp Thr Glu Asp Lys Leu Lys Gly Ala Arg Glu Glu Asn | |
| | 1045 1050 | |
| 20 | AGT GGC TTG CTG CAG GAG CTG GAG GAG CTG AGA AAG CAA GCC | 3337 |
| | Ser Gly Leu Leu Gln Glu Leu Glu Glu Leu Arg Lys Gln Ala | |
| | 1055 1060 1065 | |
| 25 | GAC AAA GCC AAA GCT GCT CAA ACA GCG GAA GAT GCC ATG CAG | 3379 |
| | Asp Lys Ala Lys Ala Ala Gln Thr Ala Glu Asp Ala Met Gln | |
| | 1070 1075 1080 | |
| 30 | ATA ATG GAA CAG ATG ACC AAA GAG AAG ACT GAG ACT CTG GCC | 3421 |
| | Ile Met Glu Gln Met Thr Lys Glu Lys Thr Glu Thr Leu Ala | |
| | 1085 1090 1095 | |
| 35 | TCC TTG GAG GAC ACC AAG CAA ACA AAT GCA AAA CTA CAG AAT | 3463 |
| | Ser Leu Glu Asp Thr Lys Gln Thr Asn Ala Lys Leu Gln Asn | |
| | 1100 1105 1110 | |
| 40 | GAA TTG GAC ACA CTT AAA GAA AAC AAC TTG AAA AAT GTG GAA | 3505 |
| | Glu Leu Asp Thr Leu Lys Glu Asn Asn Leu Lys Asn Val Glu | |
| | 1115 1120 | |
| 45 | GAG CTG AAC AAA TCA AAA GAA CTC CTG ACT GTA GAG AAT CAA | 3547 |
| | Glu Leu Asn Lys Ser Lys Glu Leu Leu Thr Val Glu Asn Gln | |
| | 1125 1130 1135 | |
| 50 | AAA ATG GAA GAA TTT AGG AAA GAA ATA GAA ACC CTA AAG CAG | 3589 |
| | Lys Met Glu Glu Phe Arg Lys Glu Ile Glu Thr Leu Lys Gln | |
| | 1140 1145 1150 | |
| 55 | GCA GCA GCT CAG AAG TCC CAG CAG CTT TCA GCG TTG CAA GAA | 3631 |
| | Ala Ala Ala Gln Lys Ser Gln Gln Leu Ser Ala Leu Gln Glu | |
| | 1155 1160 1165 | |
| 60 | GAG AAC GTT AAA CTT GCT GAG GAG CTG GGG AGA AGC AGG GAC | 3673 |
| | Glu Asn Val Lys Leu Ala Glu Glu Leu Gly Arg Ser Arg Asp | |
| | 1170 1175 1180 | |
| 65 | GAA GTC ACA AGT CAT CAA AAG CTG GAA GAA GAA AGA TCT GTG | 3715 |
| | Glu Val Thr Ser His Gln Lys Leu Glu Glu Glu Arg Ser Val | |
| | 1185 1190 | |

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| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 5 | CTC AAT AAT CAG TTG TTA GAA ATG AAA AAA AGA GAA TCC AAG | 3757 |
| | Leu Asn Asn Gln Leu Leu Glu Met Lys Lys Arg Glu Ser Lys | |
| | 1195 1200 1205 | |
| 10 | TTC ATA AAA GAC GCA GAT GAA GAG AAA GCT TCC TTG CAG AAA | 3799 |
| | Phe Ile Lys Asp Ala Asp Glu Glu Lys Ala Ser Leu Gln Lys | |
| | 1210 1215 1220 | |
| 15 | TCC ATC AGT ATA ACT AGT GCC TTA CTC ACA GAA AAG GAT GCC | 3841 |
| | Ser Ile Ser Ile Thr Ser Ala Leu Leu Thr Glu Lys Asp Ala | |
| | 1225 1230 1235 | |
| 20 | GAG CTG GAG AAA CTG AGA AAT GAG GTC ACA GTG CTC AGG GGA | 3883 |
| | Glu Leu Glu Lys Leu Arg Asn Glu Val Thr Val Leu Arg Gly | |
| | 1240 1245 1250 | |
| 25 | GAA AAC GCC TCT GCC AAG TCC TTG CAT TCA GTT GTT CAG ACT | 3925 |
| | Glu Asn Ala Ser Ala Lys Ser Leu His Ser Val Val Gln Thr | |
| | 1255 1260 | |
| 30 | CTA GAG TCT GAT AAG GTG AAG CTC GAG CTC AAG GTA AAG AAC | 3967 |
| | Leu Glu Ser Asp Lys Val Lys Leu Glu Leu Lys Val Lys Asn | |
| | 1265 1270 1275 | |
| 35 | TTG GAG CTT CAA CTC AAA GAA AAC AAG AGG CAG CTC AGC AGC | 4009 |
| | Leu Glu Leu Gln Leu Lys Glu Asn Lys Arg Gln Leu Ser Ser | |
| | 1280 1285 1290 | |
| 40 | TCC TCA GGT AAT ACA GAC ACT CAG GCA GAC GAG GAT GAA AGA | 4051 |
| | Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Asp Thr Gln Ala Asp Glu Asp Glu Arg | |
| | 1295 1300 1305 | |
| 45 | GCC CAG GAG AGT CAG ATT GAT TTC CTA AAT TCA GTA ATA GTG | 4093 |
| | Ala Gln Glu Ser Gln Ile Asp Phe Leu Asn Ser Val Ile Val | |
| | 1310 1315 1320 | |
| 50 | GAC CTT CAA AGG AAG AAT CAA GAC CTC AAG ATG AAG GTG GAG | 4135 |
| | Asp Leu Gln Arg Lys Asn Gln Asp Leu Lys Met Lys Val Glu | |
| | 1325 1330 | |
| 55 | ATG ATG TCA GAA GCA GCC CTG AAT GGG AAC GGG GAT GAC CTA | 4177 |
| | Met Met Ser Glu Ala Ala Leu Asn Gly Asn Gly Asp Asp Leu | |
| | 1335 1340 1345 | |
| 60 | AAC AAT TAT GAC AGT GAT GAT CAG GAG AAA CAG TCC AAG AAG | 4219 |
| | Asn Asn Tyr Asp Ser Asp Asp Gln Glu Lys Gln Ser Lys Lys | |
| | 1350 1355 1360 | |
| 65 | AAA CCT CGC CTC TTC TGT GAC ATT TGT GAC TGC TTT GAT CTC | 4261 |
| | Lys Pro Arg Leu Phe Cys Asp Ile Cys Asp Cys Phe Asp Leu | |
| | 1365 1370 1375 | |

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| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 5 | CAC GAC ACA GAG GAT TGT CCT ACC CAG GCA CAG ATG TCA GAG | 4303 |
| | His Asp Thr Glu Asp Cys Pro Thr Gln Ala Gln Met Ser Glu | |
| | 1380 1385 1390 | |
| 10 | GAC CCT CCC CAT TCC ACA CAC CAT GGC AGT CGG GGT GAG GAA | 4345 |
| | Asp Pro Pro His Ser Thr His His Gly Ser Arg Gly Glu Glu | |
| | 1395 1400 | |
| | CGC CCA TAC TGT GAA ATC TGT GAG ATG TTT GGA CAC TGG GCC | 4387 |
| | Arg Pro Tyr Cys Glu Ile Cys Glu Met Phe Gly His Trp Ala | |
| | 1405 1410 1415 | |
| 15 | ACC AAC TGC AAT GAC GAC GAA ACC TTC TGATGAAGCC | 4424 |
| | Thr Asn Cys Asn Asp Asp Glu Thr Phe | |
| | 1420 1425 | |
| 20 | TCCAGTGGAG AACTGGGCTT GCTCAGACGC ACTCGCATTG ACACAACGTA | 4474 |
| | ACACCAGCAT TGTGTGTGCA GACTTCAGGA GAACTCATGT TATTTTTTAA | 4524 |
| | CCCCGTCAAC AAATCTAGGA AAATATTTTG ATCTTCAACA AATTGCCCTT | 4574 |
| 25 | TAGTCTCCCC GTATGAGTTA GAATAATAAA TATTTAGTAG GTGAGTTTTC | 4624 |
| | ACCTCGAATT TTGTTTTCTT GATTTTTTACG TTTGAAGACA TTGCACCAGA | 4674 |
| | TGCCATTACA TTTATTGGCC CCCCGACCTT GTAGAAAAAC CCCTACCCTC | 4724 |
| 30 | ACAATACCTT ATTTAAGTAA CTTTAAATTA TGCCGTTACT TTTCATATTT | 4774 |
| | GCACCTAAGA TATTTCCAGG CTGCATTTGT ATATTTAGAT TTTTGGTTA | 4824 |
| 35 | AGCTTTGACA CTGGAATGAG TTGAAAAAAT GTGCCATTTT GCATTTTCAT | 4874 |
| | CTACTCATTT AAAGTATTTT ATTCTTATTC AAAGAAATAT CTGAGCTCTT | 4924 |
| | TGCACTACCT GTTATCAGTA GTGCCTTTAC TTCAGGCTTG ATAATACTTA | 4974 |
| 40 | GGTGTGATTA TAAAATCATG AAGCAGGTAA AGGGAGGGGC AAGCCCCAAA | 5024 |
| | CTGCTGTGGG GACATTTTAT AATCTATATG CTGCACCCAC TTAATCTACT | 5074 |
| | GTGGTGTTTT GTTTATTAGT TTTGCATAAT TTCAGCTTCT ATATATTGTA | 5124 |
| 45 | TGTATATATT TTTTAAAAAT CTATATTTTG GGAAAAAAC ATACACAATG | 5174 |
| | TGTCTTTCTT TTTGGACATT TACCTTTTGT AAAAAGAAAA CACTTAAAT | 5224 |
| 50 | GATCATTAGG ACATAACAGA CTAGGCCAGA CATAGCATCT TGTGGCTTTG | 5274 |

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SEQ ID NO: 1 continued

5 CAACCATTTT CATTTGTTTG TTTTCCTTTT ATTTCTTCAC CAGATTTAAA 5324
 TAAAAGGAGG AATTTTCTCC AATTTTTTTT TCCTTCTCTG GCAGGTATCC 5374
 CCAGCAGTCA ATTAACAATA AGCCAGTATA AAACACCTAA ATAACCAATC 5424
 10 TACAATCTCC CTTCAACAAGT TTTTTTACTG TTTTATAGATG AATGTACGAT 5474
 GAGAAATTCA ACGTTAATAA TTCTGGATTT TCTTATCACA AAAAAGAAAA 5524
 TGAAGGACCT CAAAGCACCT GAACAGTTTA TCGACCAGTT TGAATCTATT 5574
 15 TATCTTCATT TGAATGTCTT CTAGATATGT AAAAAGTCAT AAAATGTATC 5624
 TTCCATGCTA CATGTACAAT AAGAACTTCT ATAATTGTAT ATATGCCTTT 5674
 GATGTATTTT CCCCTCAAGA TTATCAACTG TGTGTTTCGAC AGTGAATATT 5724
 20 CAATCTGGTA CCAGTTGAAA TTTTGGTTA TAAATGTAAT ACGAATTGTT 5774
 TCACAAACAG AAAACATGTA AAGCAGTATT AAAATTTGGC CAAACAAGTG 5824
 25 TTCTGTATCT ACTTTTAATA AATGGTTATT CTTT 5858

Claims

1. A polypeptide with an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation, or a derivative thereof.
2. A polypeptide according to claim 1 which is of human origin, or a derivative thereof.
- 35 3. A polypeptide according to claim 1 designated MRP-160 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a derivative thereof.
4. A derivative according to claim 1 which is a fragment.
5. A fragment according to claim 4 which comprises amino acids 878 to 1427 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the N-terminus is hydrogen, acyl, the amino acid sequence Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly or the amino acid sequence Met-Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly.
- 40 6. A derivative according to claim 1 which is a compound wherein amino and/or hydroxyl functions are glycosylated or acylated.
7. A derivative according to claim 1 which is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.
- 45 8. A derivative according to claim 1 which has an apparent molecular weight of 190 kD.
9. A derivative according to claim 1 which has an apparent molecular weight of 140 kD.
10. A process for the preparation of a polypeptide or a derivative thereof according to claim 1 wherein a solution containing such a polypeptide or derivative thereof is purified by chromatographic methods and, when required, the desired compound is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.
- 50 11. A process according to claim 10 wherein the solution containing the desired compound is an optionally pre-purified cell extract, cell supernatant or culture filtrate of stimulated normal human leukocytes or human embryonic epithelial lung cells, or of genetically engineered microorganisms or continuous mammalian cell lines.
12. A process according to claim 10 wherein the solution containing the desired compound is obtained by
- 55 culturing transformed host cells expressing the desired compound under conditions which allow expression of heterologous polypeptides.
13. A DNA coding for a polypeptide or a derivative thereof according to claim 1, or a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA.

14. A DNA according to claim 13 coding for MRP-160 of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA.
15. A DNA fragment according to claim 13 which comprises nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 5 16. A DNA which hybridizes with a DNA, mutant or fragment thereof according to claim 13.
17. A DNA, mutant or fragment thereof according to claim 13 which is of genomic origin.
18. A process for the preparation of a DNA, a mutant or a fragment thereof according to claim 13 wherein transformed host cells expressing the desired compound are cultured, and, when required, the desired DNA is isolated therefrom.
- 10 19. A process according to claim 18 which comprises
 - a) isolating mRNA from suitable cells, selecting the desired mRNA, preparing single-stranded cDNA complementary to that mRNA, then double-stranded cDNA therefrom, or
 - b) isolating cDNA from a cDNA library and selecting the desired cDNA, or
 - c) isolating genomic DNA from suitable human tissue and selecting the desired DNA, and
 - 15 d) incorporating the double-stranded DNA of step a), b) or c) into an appropriate expression vector,
 - e) transforming appropriate host cells with the obtained hybrid vector,
 - f) selecting transformed host cells which contain the desired DNA from untransformed host cells, and, when required,
 - g) isolating the desired DNA and/or converting it into a mutant or fragment thereof.
- 20 20. A process for the preparation of a DNA, a mutant or a fragment thereof according to claim 13 wherein the desired compounds are synthesized chemically.
21. A hybrid vector which comprises a DNA, a mutant or a fragment thereof according to claim 13 operatively linked to expression control sequences.
22. A hybrid vector according to claim 21 which comprises a DNA of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a mutant or a fragment thereof.
- 25 23. A hybrid vector according to claim 21 which comprises a DNA comprising the nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.
24. A hybrid vector according to claim 21 which is the vector pMRP160.
25. A hybrid vector according to claim 21 which is the vector pMRP160_{ex}.
- 30 26. A hybrid vector according to claim 21 which is the vector pMRP70_{PL}.
27. A transformed host cell expressing a polypeptide or a derivative thereof according to claim 1.
28. A host cell according to claim 27 transformed with a hybrid vector according to claim 21.
29. A host cell according to claim 27 of the genus Escherichia coli.
30. A host cell according to claim 27 which is of mammalian origin.
- 35 31. A host cell according to claim 30 which is a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell.
32. A process for the preparation of a host cell according to claim 27 wherein a suitable cell is transformed with a hybrid vector by electroporation, calcium treatment, microinjection or protoplast fusion, optionally in the presence of helper compounds, and the transformed cell is selected.
33. The use of a polypeptide or a derivative thereof according to claim 1 for the treatment of inflammatory conditions.
- 40 34. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide or a derivative thereof according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
35. A polyclonal or monoclonal antibody specific for a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or for a derivative thereof,
- 45 or a derivative of such an antibody which retains the specificity of the antibody from which it is derived.
36. A polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 which is specific for MRP-160, or a derivative thereof.
37. A polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 which is specific for rMRP-70, or a derivative thereof.
- 50 38. A polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 which is specific for a fragment of MRP-160, or a derivative thereof.
39. A polyclonal rabbit antibody according to claim 35 which is specific for rMRP-70.
40. A derivative of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 which is selected from the group consisting of antibody fragments, conjugates of the antibody with an enzyme, a fluorescent marker, a chemiluminescent marker, a metal chelate, a paramagnetic particle, avidin, biotin, and radioactively labelled antibodies.
- 55 41. A process for the preparation of a polyclonal antibody or a derivative thereof according to claim 35 wherein a suitable mammal or bird is immunized with a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of

around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or with a derivative thereof, the blood serum of the immunized mammal or the eggs of the immunized bird are collected and, when required, the antibody is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

42. A process for the preparation of a monoclonal antibody or a derivative thereof according to claim 35 wherein hybridoma cells secreting said monoclonal antibodies are multiplied in vitro or in vivo and, when required, the antibody is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

43. A hybridoma cell line which secretes monoclonal antibodies according to claim 35.

44. A process for the preparation of a hybridoma cell line according to claim 43 wherein a suitable mammal is immunized with a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or with a derivative thereof, antibody-producing cells of this mammal are fused with cells of a continuous cell line, the hybrid cells obtained in the fusion are cloned, and cell clones secreting the desired monoclonal antibodies are selected.

45. The use of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 for the qualitative and quantitative determination of polypeptides of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation, or of derivatives thereof.

46. The use of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 for the diagnosis of inflammatory conditions.

47. The use of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 for the diagnosis or treatment of Hodgkin lymphoma.

48. A test kit for the for the qualitative and quantitative determination of polypeptides of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which are mediators or precursors for mediators of inflammation, or of derivatives thereof, comprising a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody according to claim 35 and, optionally, other monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies and/or adjuncts.

49. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody or a derivative thereof according to claim 35 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims for the following Contracting State: ES

1. A process for the preparation of a polypeptide with an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation, or of a derivative thereof, characterized in that a solution containing such a polypeptide or derivative thereof is purified by chromatographic methods and, when required, the desired compound is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

2. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide of human origin, or of a derivative thereof.

3. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide designated MRP-160 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or of a derivative thereof.

4. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which is a fragment.

5. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide fragment which comprises amino acids 878 to 1427 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the N-terminus is hydrogen, acyl, the amino acid sequence Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly or the amino acid sequence Met-Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly.

6. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which is a compound wherein amino and/or hydroxyl functions are glycosylated or acylated.

7. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

8. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which has an apparent molecular weight of 190 kD.

9. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which has an apparent molecular weight of 140 kD.

10. A process according to claim 1 wherein the solution containing the desired compound is an optionally pre-purified cell extract, cell supernatant or culture filtrate of stimulated normal human leukocytes or human embryonic epithelial lung cells, or of genetically engineered microorganisms or continuous mammalian cell lines.

11. A process according to claim 1 wherein the solution containing the desired compound is obtained by culturing transformed host cells expressing the desired compound under conditions which allow expression of heterologous polypeptides.

12. A process for the preparation of a DNA coding for a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in

claim 1, or of a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA, characterized in that transformed host cells expressing the desired compound are cultured, and, when required, the desired DNA is isolated therefrom.

13. A process according to claim 12 for the preparation of a DNA coding for MRP-160 of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or of a mutant or fragment of such DNA.

5 14. A process according to claim 12 for the preparation of a DNA which comprises nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. A process for the preparation of a DNA which hybridizes with a DNA coding for a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1, or with a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA, characterized in that transformed host cells expressing the desired compound are cultured, and, when required, the desired DNA
10 is isolated therefrom.

16. A process according to claim 12 for the preparation of a DNA which is of genomic origin.

17. A process according to claim 12 which comprises

a) isolating mRNA from suitable cells, selecting the desired mRNA, preparing single-stranded cDNA complementary to that mRNA, then double-stranded cDNA therefrom, or

15 b) isolating cDNA from a cDNA library and selecting the desired cDNA, or

c) isolating genomic DNA from suitable human tissue and selecting the desired DNA, and

d) incorporating the double-stranded DNA of step a), b) or c) into an appropriate expression vector,

e) transforming appropriate host cells with the obtained hybrid vector,

f) selecting transformed host cells which contain the desired DNA from untransformed host cells, and,
20 when required,

g) isolating the desired DNA and/or converting it into a mutant or fragment thereof.

18. A process for the preparation of a DNA coding for a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1, or of a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA, characterized in that the desired compounds are synthesized chemically.

25 19. A process for the preparation of a hybrid vector, characterized in that a DNA coding for a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1, or a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA is operatively linked to expression control sequences.

20. A process according to claim 19 wherein the DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a mutant or a fragment thereof.

30 21. A process according to claim 19 wherein the DNA comprises the nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.

22. A process according to claim 19 for the preparation of the vector pMRP160.

23. A process according to claim 19 for the preparation of the vector pMRP160_{ex}.

24. A process according to claim 19 for the preparation of the vector pMRP70_{PL}.

35 25. A host cell expressing a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1.

26. A host cell according to claim 25 transformed with a hybrid vector as defined in claim 19.

27. A host cell according to claim 25 of the genus Escherichia coli.

28. A host cell according to claim 25 which is of mammalian origin.

29. A host cell according to claim 28 which is a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell.

40 30. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1 is mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. A process for the preparation of a polyclonal antibody specific for a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or for a derivative thereof, or a derivative of such an antibody which retains the specificity of the antibody from
45 which it is derived, characterized in that a suitable mammal or bird is immunized with said polypeptide or derivative thereof, the blood serum of the immunized mammal or the eggs of the immunized bird are collected and, when required, the antibody is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

32. A process for the preparation of a monoclonal antibody specific for a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or for a derivative thereof, or of a derivative of such an antibody which retains the specificity of the antibody from
50 which it is derived, characterized in that hybridoma cells secreting said monoclonal antibodies are multiplied in vitro or in vivo and, when required, the antibody is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

33. A process according to claim 31 or 32 for the preparation of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is specific for MRP-160, or of a derivative thereof.

55 34. A process according to claim 31 or 32 for the preparation of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is specific for rMRP-70, or of a derivative thereof.

35. A process according to claim 31 or 32 for the preparation of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is specific for a fragment of MRP-160, or of a derivative thereof.

36. A process according to claim 31 for the preparation of a polyclonal rabbit antibody which is specific for rMRP-70.

37. A process according to claim 31 or 32 for the preparation of a derivative of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is selected from the group consisting of antibody fragments, conjugates of the antibody with an enzyme, a fluorescent marker, a chemiluminescent marker, a metal chelate, a paramagnetic particle, avidin, biotin, and radioactively labelled antibodies.

38. A hybridoma cell line which secretes monoclonal antibodies specific for a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or for a derivative thereof.

39. A process for the preparation of a hybridoma cell line according to claim 38 wherein a suitable mammal is immunized with a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or for a derivative thereof, antibody-producing cells of this mammal are fused with cells of a continuous cell line, the hybrid cells obtained in the fusion are cloned, and cell clones secreting the desired monoclonal antibodies are selected.

40. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 31 or 32 is mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims for the following Contracting State: GR

1. A process for the preparation of a polypeptide with an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation, or of a derivative thereof, characterized in that a solution containing such a polypeptide or derivative thereof is purified by chromatographic methods and, when required, the desired compound is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

2. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide of human origin, or of a derivative thereof.

3. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide designated MRP-160 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or of a derivative thereof.

4. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which is a fragment.

5. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide fragment which comprises amino acids 878 to 1427 of the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the N-terminus is hydrogen, acyl, the amino acid sequence Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly or the amino acid sequence Met-Asp-Gly-Ile-Asp-Lys-Leu-Asp-Ile-Glu-Phe-Gly.

6. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which is a compound wherein amino and/or hydroxyl functions are glycosylated or acylated.

7. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

8. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which has an apparent molecular weight of 190 kD.

9. A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a polypeptide derivative which has an apparent molecular weight of 140 kD.

10. A process according to claim 1 wherein the solution containing the desired compound is an optionally pre-purified cell extract, cell supernatant or culture filtrate of stimulated normal human leukocytes or human embryonic epithelial lung cells, or of genetically engineered microorganisms or continuous mammalian cell lines.

11. A process according to claim 1 wherein the solution containing the desired compound is obtained by culturing transformed host cells expressing the desired compound under conditions which allow expression of heterologous polypeptides.

12. A DNA coding for a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1, or a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA.

13. A DNA according to claim 12 coding for MRP-160 of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a mutant or a fragment of such a DNA.

14. A DNA fragment according to claim 12 which comprises nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. A DNA which hybridizes with a DNA, mutant or fragment thereof according to claim 12.

16. A DNA, mutant or fragment thereof according to claim 12 which is of genomic origin.

17. A process for the preparation of a DNA, a mutant or a fragment thereof according to claim 12 wherein transformed host cells expressing the desired compound are cultured, and, when required, the desired DNA

is isolated therefrom.

18. A process according to claim 17 which comprises

- a) isolating mRNA from suitable cells, selecting the desired mRNA, preparing single-stranded cDNA complementary to that mRNA, then double-stranded cDNA therefrom, or
- 5 b) isolating cDNA from a cDNA library and selecting the desired cDNA, or
- c) isolating genomic DNA from suitable human tissue and selecting the desired DNA, and
- d) incorporating the double-stranded DNA of step a), b) or c) into an appropriate expression vector,
- e) transforming appropriate host cells with the obtained hybrid vector,
- f) selecting transformed host cells which contain the desired DNA from untransformed host cells, and,
- 10 g) isolating the desired DNA and/or converting it into a mutant or fragment thereof.

19. A process for the preparation of a DNA, a mutant or a fragment thereof according to claim 12 wherein the desired compounds are synthesized chemically.

20. A hybrid vector which comprises a DNA, a mutant or a fragment thereof according to claim 12 operatively linked to expression control sequences.

21. A hybrid vector according to claim 20 which comprises a DNA of a nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a mutant or a fragment thereof.

22. A hybrid vector according to claim 20 which comprises a DNA comprising the nucleotides 2765 to 4414 of a DNA of the nucleotide sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 1.

23. A hybrid vector according to claim 20 which is the vector pMRP160.

24. A hybrid vector according to claim 20 which is the vector pMRP160_{ex}.

25. A hybrid vector according to claim 20 which is the vector pMRP70_{PL}.

26. A transformed host cell expressing a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1.

27. A host cell according to claim 26 transformed with a hybrid vector according to claim 20.

28. A host cell according to claim 26 of the genus *Escherichia coli*.

29. A host cell according to claim 26 which is of mammalian origin.

30. A host cell according to claim 29 which is a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell.

31. A process for the preparation of a host cell according to claim 26 wherein a suitable cell is transformed with a hybrid vector by electroporation, calcium treatment, microinjection or protoplast fusion, optionally in the presence of helper compounds, and the transformed cell is selected.

32. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that a polypeptide or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 1 is mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. A process for the preparation of a polyclonal antibody specific for a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or for a derivative thereof, or a derivative of such an antibody which retains the specificity of the antibody from which it is derived, characterized in that a suitable mammal or bird is immunized with said polypeptide or derivative thereof, the blood serum of the immunized mammal or the eggs of the immunized bird are collected and, when required, the antibody is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

34. A process for the preparation of a monoclonal antibody specific for a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a precursor for a mediator of inflammation or for a derivative thereof, or of a derivative of such an antibody which retains the specificity of the antibody from which it is derived, characterized in that hybridoma cells secreting said monoclonal antibodies are multiplied in vitro or in vivo and, when required, the antibody is isolated and/or converted into a derivative thereof.

35. A process according to claim 33 or 34 for the preparation of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is specific for MRP-160, or of a derivative thereof.

36. A process according to claim 33 or 34 for the preparation of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is specific for rMRP-70, or of a derivative thereof.

37. A process according to claim 33 or 34 for the preparation of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is specific for a fragment of MRP-160, or of a derivative thereof.

38. A process according to claim 33 for the preparation of a polyclonal rabbit antibody which is specific for rMRP-70.

39. A process according to claim 33 or 34 for the preparation of a derivative of a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which is selected from the group consisting of antibody fragments, conjugates of the antibody with an enzyme, a fluorescent marker, a chemiluminescent marker, a metal chelate, a paramagnetic particle, avidin, biotin, and radioactively labelled antibodies.

40. A hybridoma cell line which secretes monoclonal antibodies as defined in claim 34.

41. A process for the preparation of a hybridoma cell line according to claim 40 wherein a suitable mammal is immunized with a polypeptide of an apparent molecular weight of around 160 kD which is a mediator or a

precursor for a mediator of inflammation or with a derivative thereof, antibody-producing cells of this mammal are fused with cells of a continuous cell line, the hybrid cells obtained in the fusion are cloned, and 11 clones secreting the desired monoclonal antibodies are selected.

42. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that a polyclonal or
5 monoclonal antibody or a derivative thereof as defined in claim 33 or 34 is mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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European
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 81 0481

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5) |
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| X | IMMUNOLOGY vol. 51, no. 2, February 1984, pages 275-285, Oxford, GB; Y. SHIMOKAWA et al.: "Lymphocyte chemotaxis in inflammation. VII. Isolation and purification of chemotactic factors for T lymphocytes from PPD-induced delayed hypersensitivity skin reaction site in the guinea-pig" * summary * | 1,10,11 | C 12 N 15/19 C 12 P 21/02 A 61 K 37/02 C 12 P 21/08 G 01 N 33/68 |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search Berlin | | Date of completion of search 28 September 90 | Examiner GURDJIAN D P M |
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